

SPIDER-WOMAN<sup>TM</sup>

MARVEL<sup>®</sup> COMICS GROUP



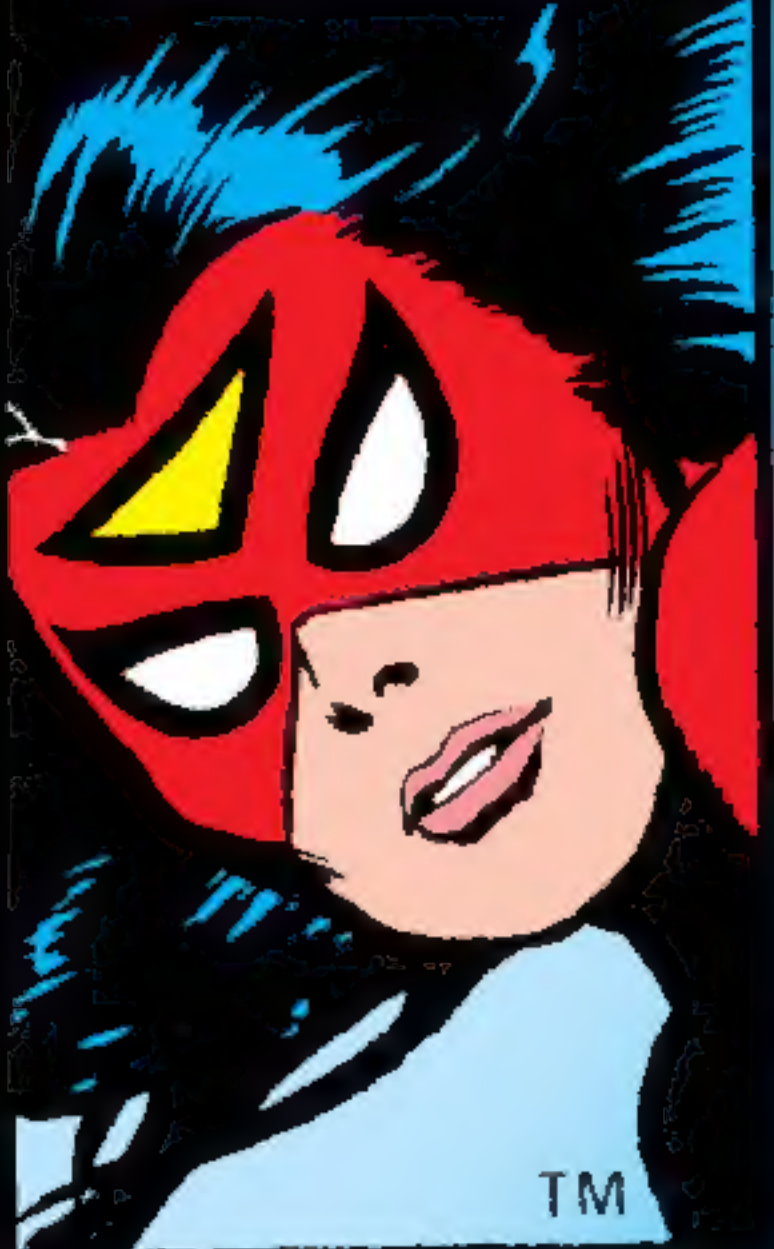
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COMICS GROUP



TO KNOW HER IS TO FEAR HER!

# THE SPIDER-WOMAN<sup>TM</sup>

**1<sup>ST</sup>**  
**SPECTACULAR**  
**ISSUE!**

NOW IN HER  
OWN BOOK! THE  
SUPER-HEROINE  
SENSATION  
THEY SAID  
COULDN'T BE  
DONE!

SPECIAL ORIGIN:  
**ALL THE  
WORLD  
AGAINST  
HER!**





Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE MYSTERIOUS SPIDER-WOMAN!**

YOU THINK YOU'VE READ IT **ALL** WHEN IT COMES TO SUPER-HEROINES? GUESS AGAIN, MARVELITE.  
MARV WOLFMAN CARLINE INFANTINO TONY DEZUNIGA JOE ROSEN GLYNIS WEIN ARCHIE GOODWIN  
WRITER/EDITOR PENCILS INKS LETTERS COLORS CREATOR/CONSULTING ED.

# ...A FUTURE UNCERTAIN!

OUTSIDE, THE LONDON NIGHT-LIFE IS JUST **BEGINNING**. TRAFALGAR SQUARE IS **CRAMMED** WITH CURIOUS TOURISTS, ST. MARTIN'S LANE **BUSTLING** WITH ANXIOUS THEATRE-GOERS.

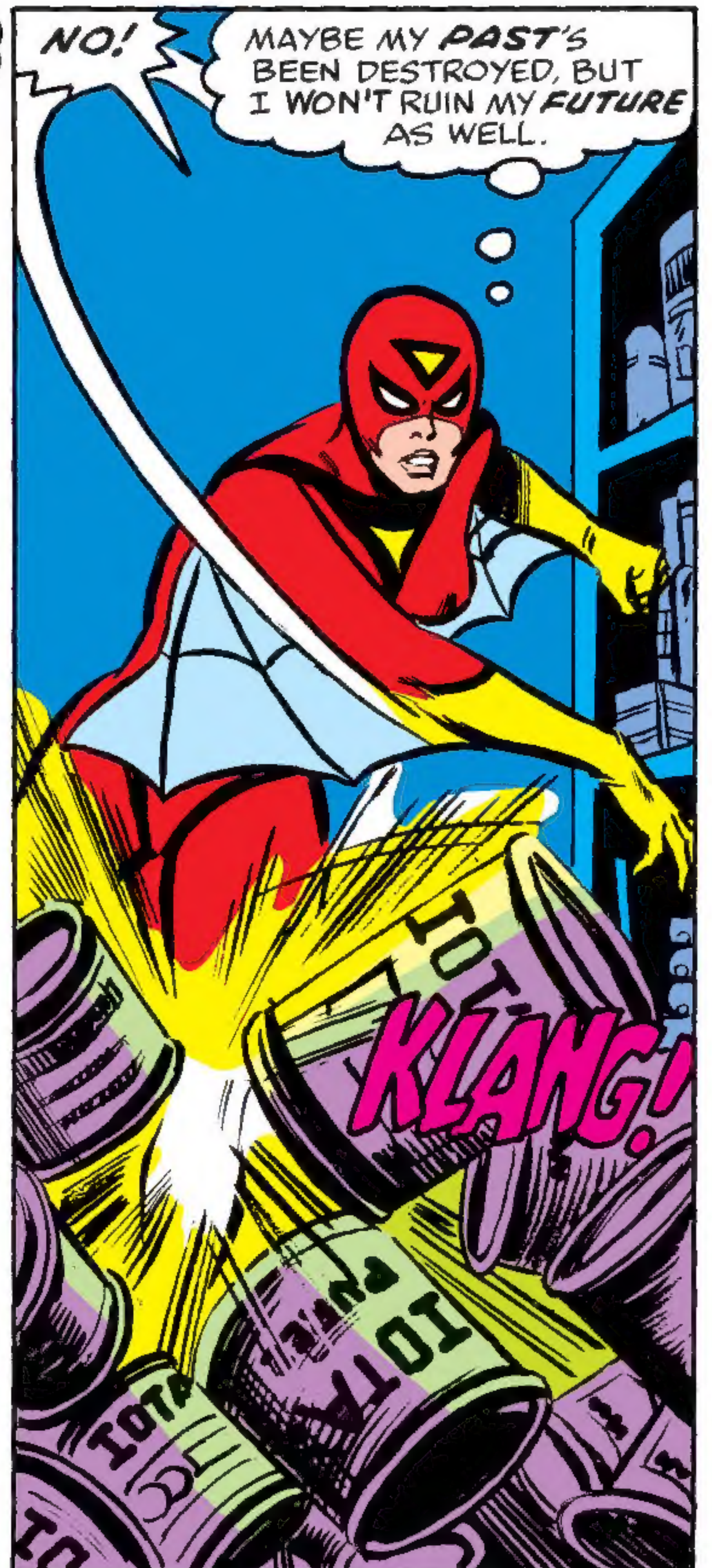
INSIDE, A LONE WOMAN MAKES A **FATEFUL DECISION**.

IS **THIS** WHAT I'VE BECOME? A THIEF--? A **SCAVENGER**--?

HEAVEN HELP ME, I'M REDUCED TO **STEALING** FOOD TO LIVE.

IS THIS MY **CURSE** FOR BECOMING -- THE **SPIDER-WOMAN**?





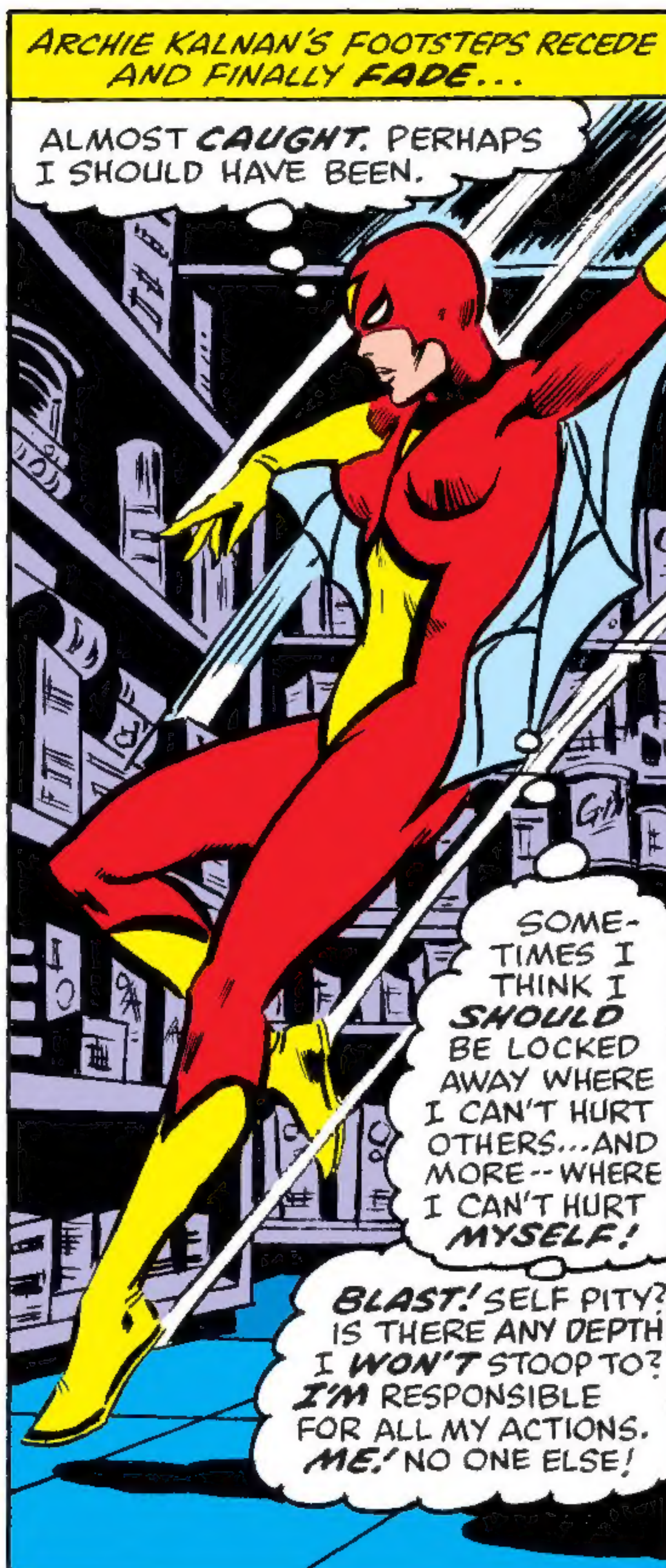




'SIDES, ARCHIE, D'YA REALLY WANT TA SEE IF THERE'S ANYTHIN' **ELSE** IN THERE?

YOU'RE TOO BLASTED **OLD** TO GET INVOLVED WITH REAL **TROUBLE**. ISN'T THAT WHAT **FLORRIE** ALWAYS SAYS--? "TOO BLASTED OLD FOR MUCH A' **ANYTHIN'!**"

SO GET ON YOUR **WAY**, ARCHIE. CHECK OUT THE **OTHER** STORES ON YOUR **ROUTE**, AN' GET ON 'OME BEFORE IT'S TOO **LATE**.

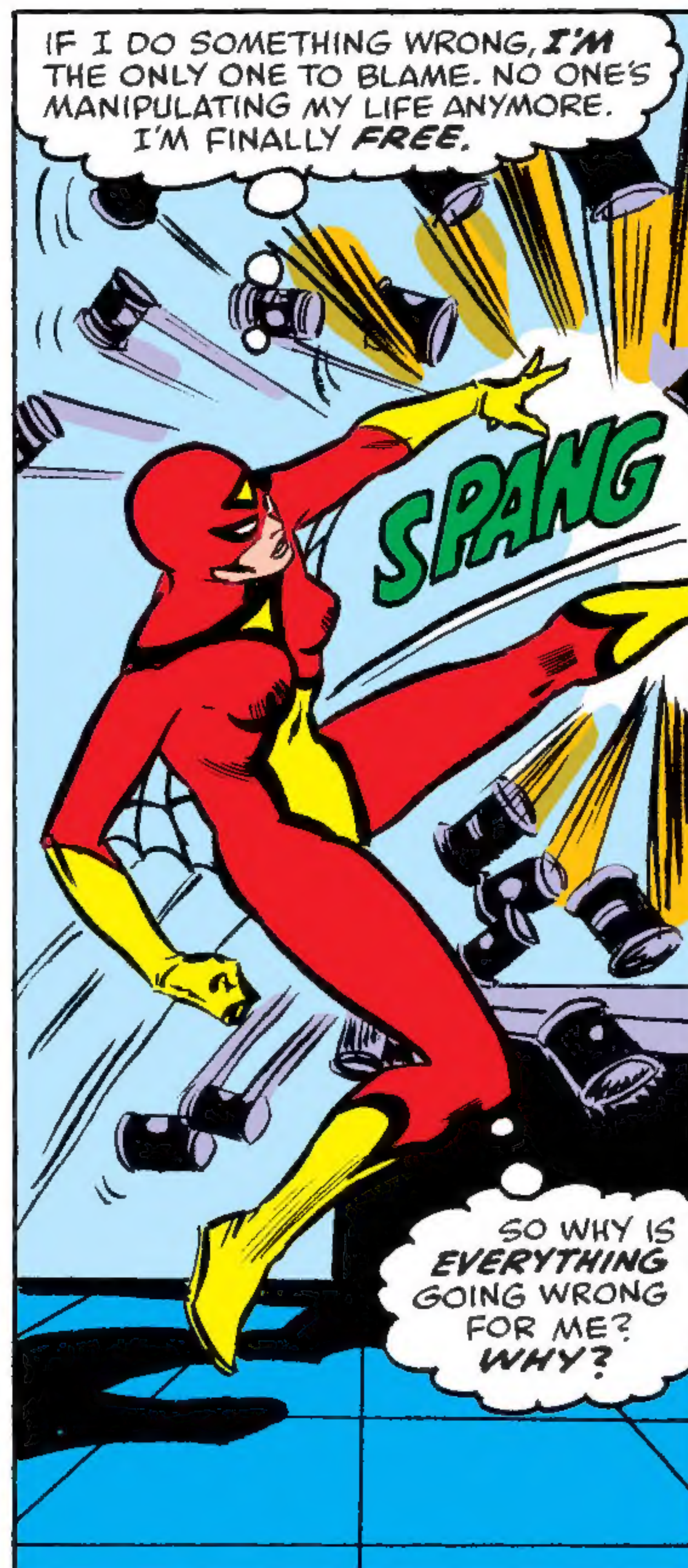


ARCHIE KALNAN'S FOOTSTEPS RECEDE AND FINALLY **FADE**...

ALMOST **CAUGHT**. PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE BEEN.

SOME-TIMES I THINK I **SHOULD** BE LOCKED AWAY WHERE I CAN'T HURT OTHERS...AND MORE-- WHERE I CAN'T HURT **MYSELF!**

**BLAST!** SELF PITY? IS THERE ANY DEPTH I **WON'T** STOOP TO? I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL MY ACTIONS. **ME!** NO ONE ELSE!



IF I DO SOMETHING WRONG, I'M THE ONLY ONE TO BLAME. NO ONE'S MANIPULATING MY LIFE ANYMORE. I'M FINALLY **FREE**.

**SPANG**

SO WHY IS **EVERYTHING** GOING WRONG FOR ME? **WHY?**



ALL RIGHT, CALM DOWN, GIRL-- **CALM DOWN**.

I KNOW I'M NOT A THIEF. I'VE TAKEN **NOTHING**, NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW I'VE BEEN HERE.

I CAN START **ALL OVER** AGAIN AND THIS TIME **PLAN** MY LIFE INSTEAD OF HAVING IT WORKED OUT FOR ME.

MY DAYS WITH THE **HIGH EVOLUTIONARY** ARE OVER. I'M FREE OF **HYDRA'S** CONTROL. I'M ON MY **OWN**-- FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE!



**HOLD IT!**

WHO--?

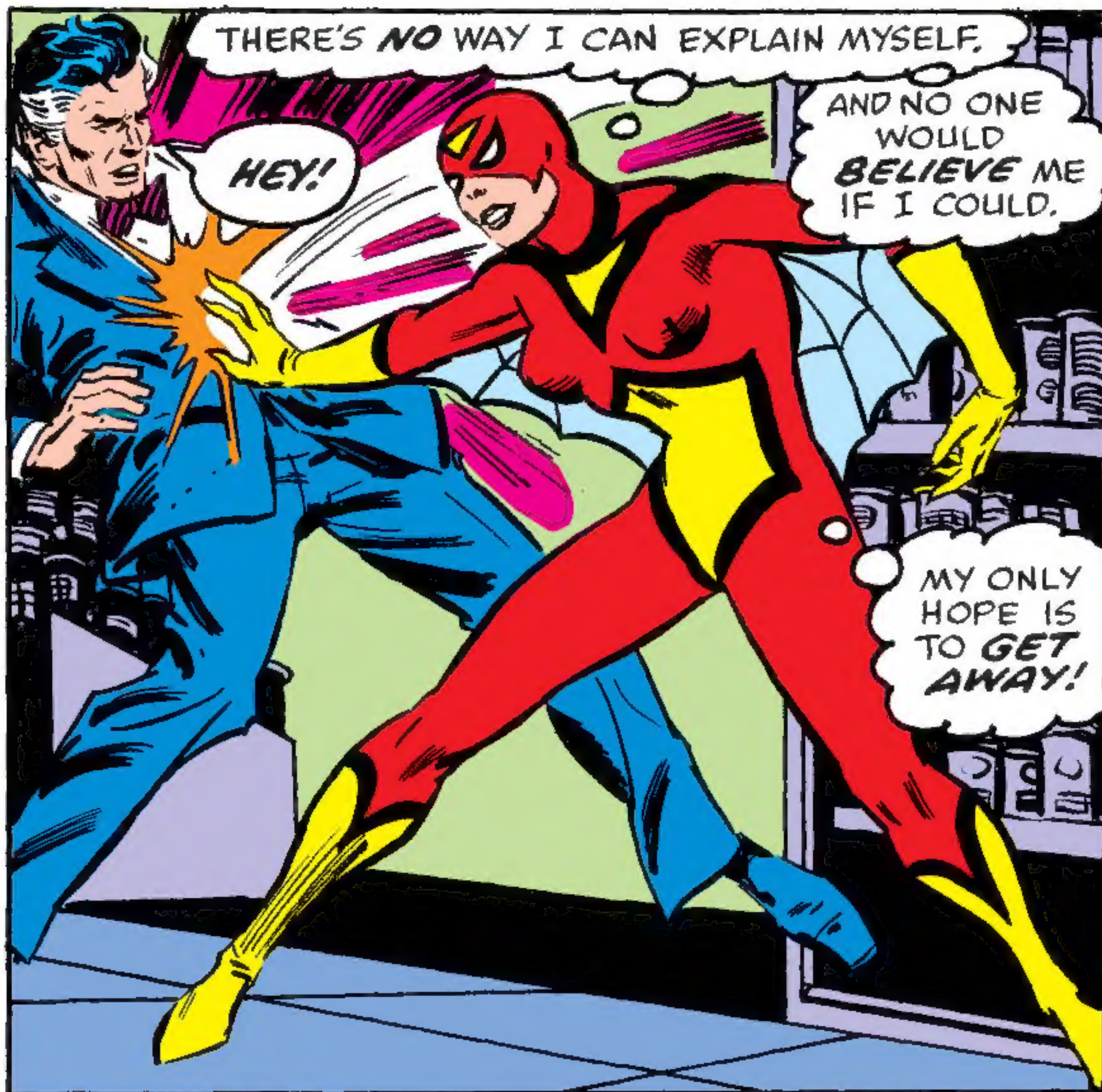
THE MARKET'S **CLOSED**--! WHAT WERE YOU **DOING** IN THERE? AND WHY ARE YOU **WEARING** THAT COS--



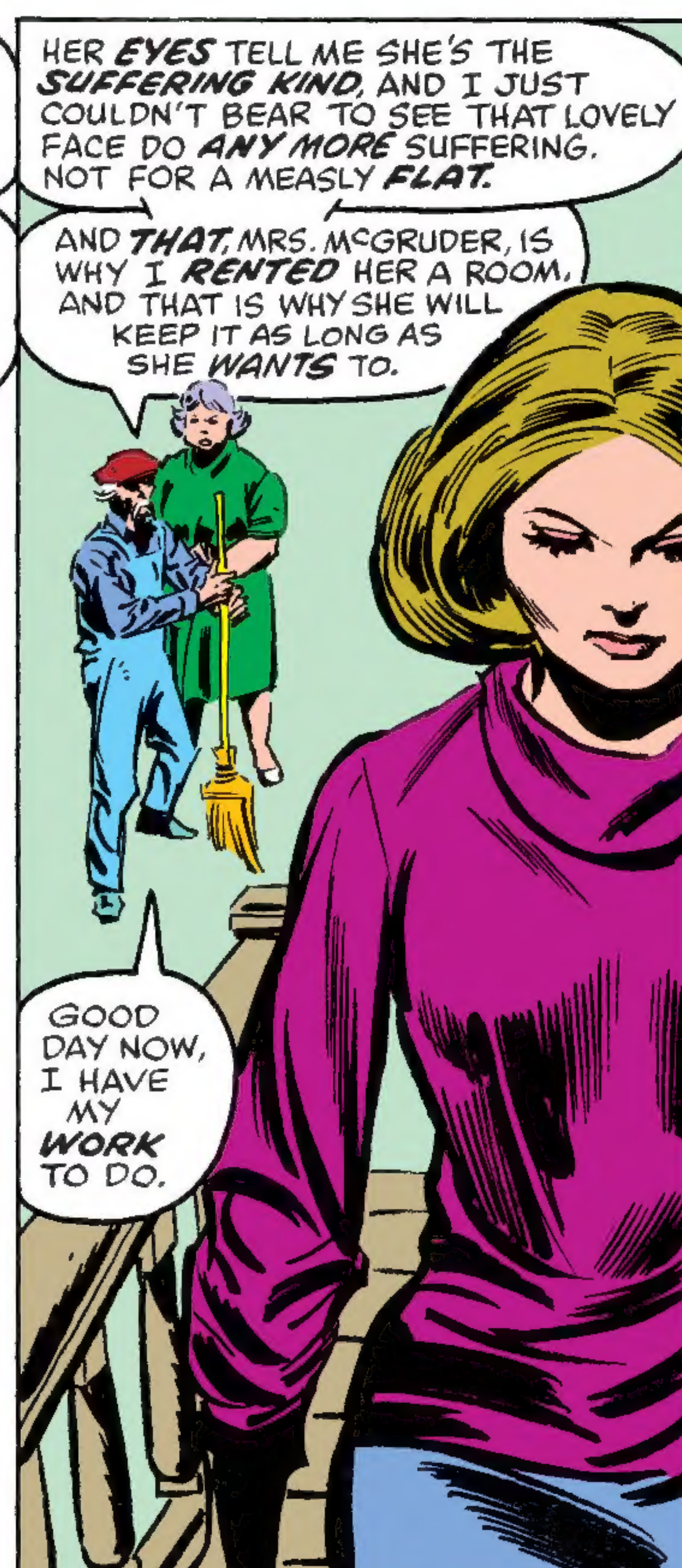
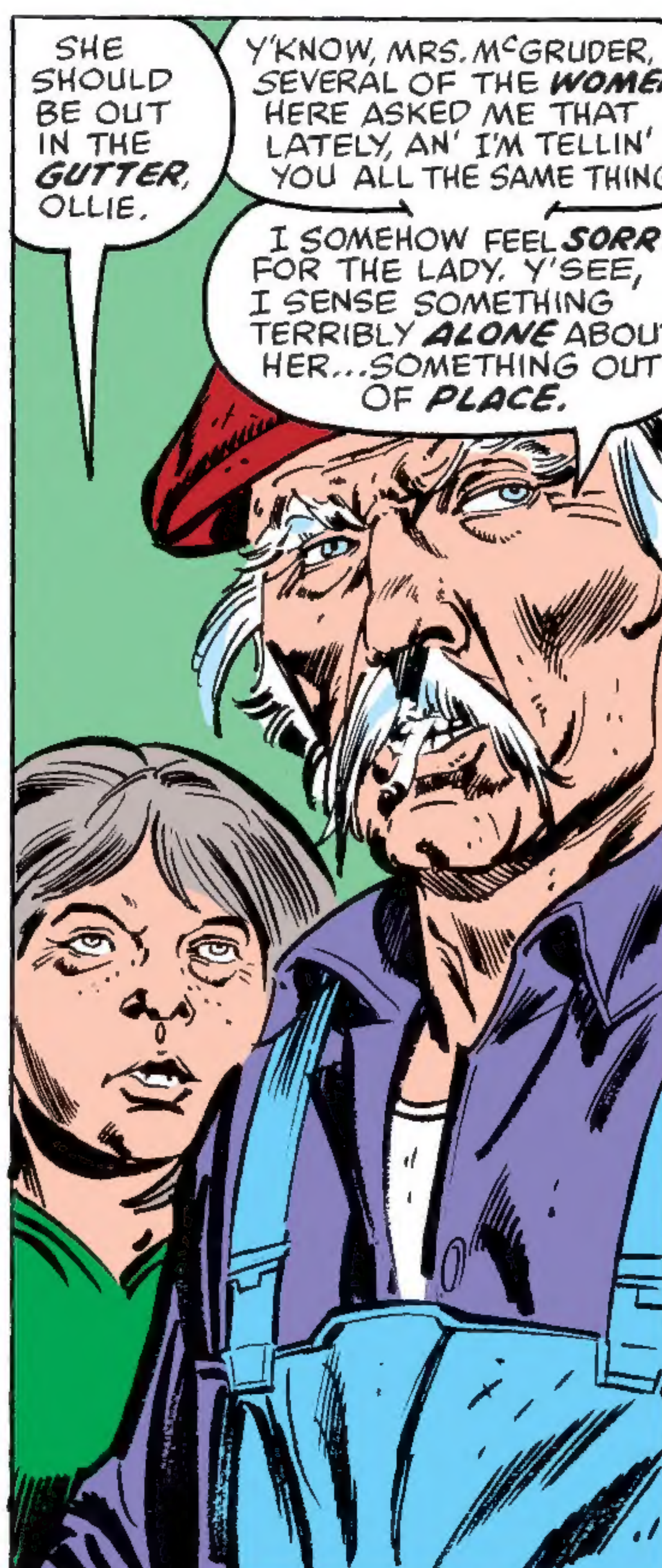
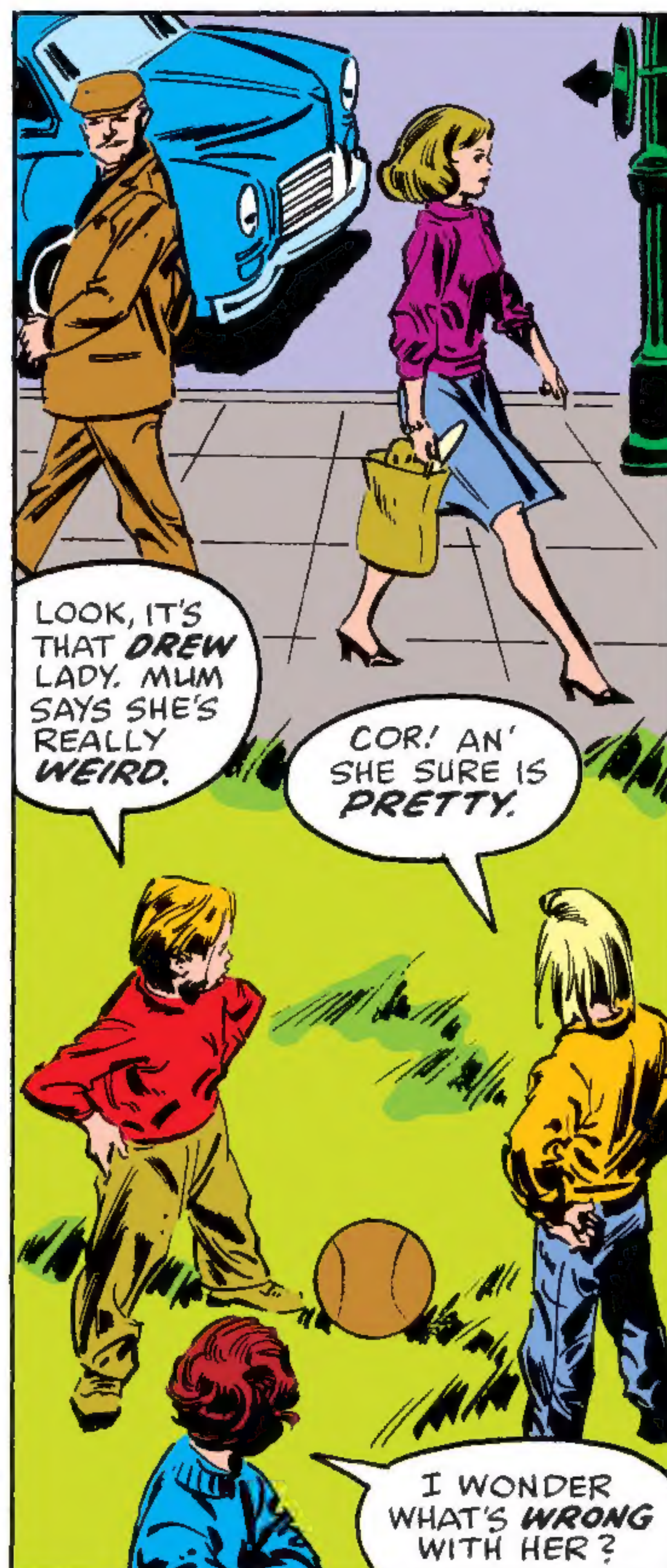
I DIDN'T **TAKE** ANYTHING. I DIDN'T **DO** ANYTHING.

THAT'S **NOT** ANSWERING THE QUESTION, LADY. AND I'M SURE ANYONE AS GORGEOUS AS YOU **MUST** HAVE A READY ANSWER FOR THIS. **DON'T** YOU?









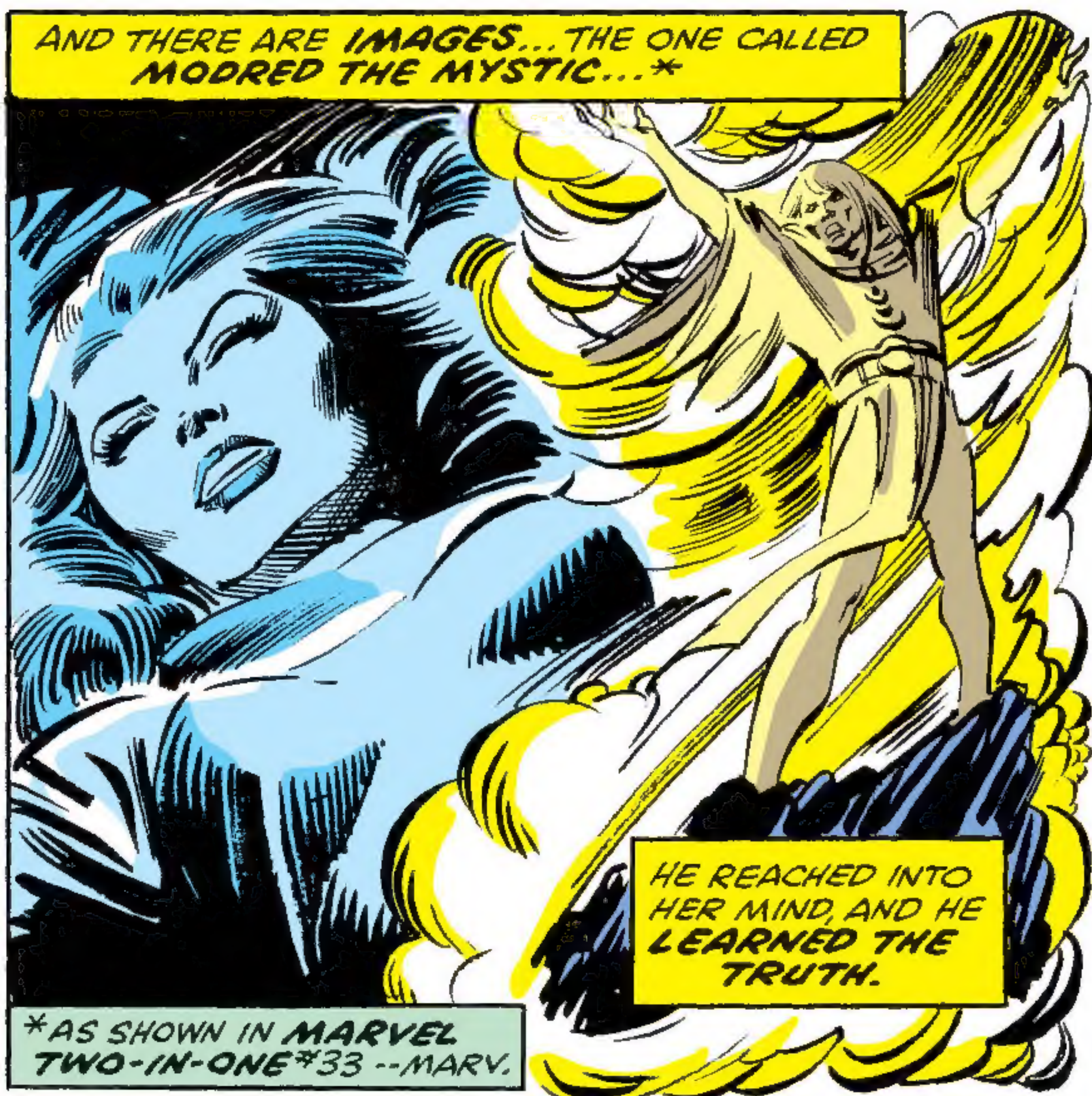


THE DAY IS LONG AND **ALONE**, AND EVENTUALLY, NIGHT CALLS ONCE MORE...

**WHAT AM I? WHERE DID I COME FROM?**  
**WHO...WHO AM I?**

DREAMS CLAIM THE YOUNG WOMAN. STRANGE NIGHTMARES THAT SPEAK OF REALITY.

AND THERE ARE **IMAGES**... THE ONE CALLED **MODRED THE MYSTIC**...\*



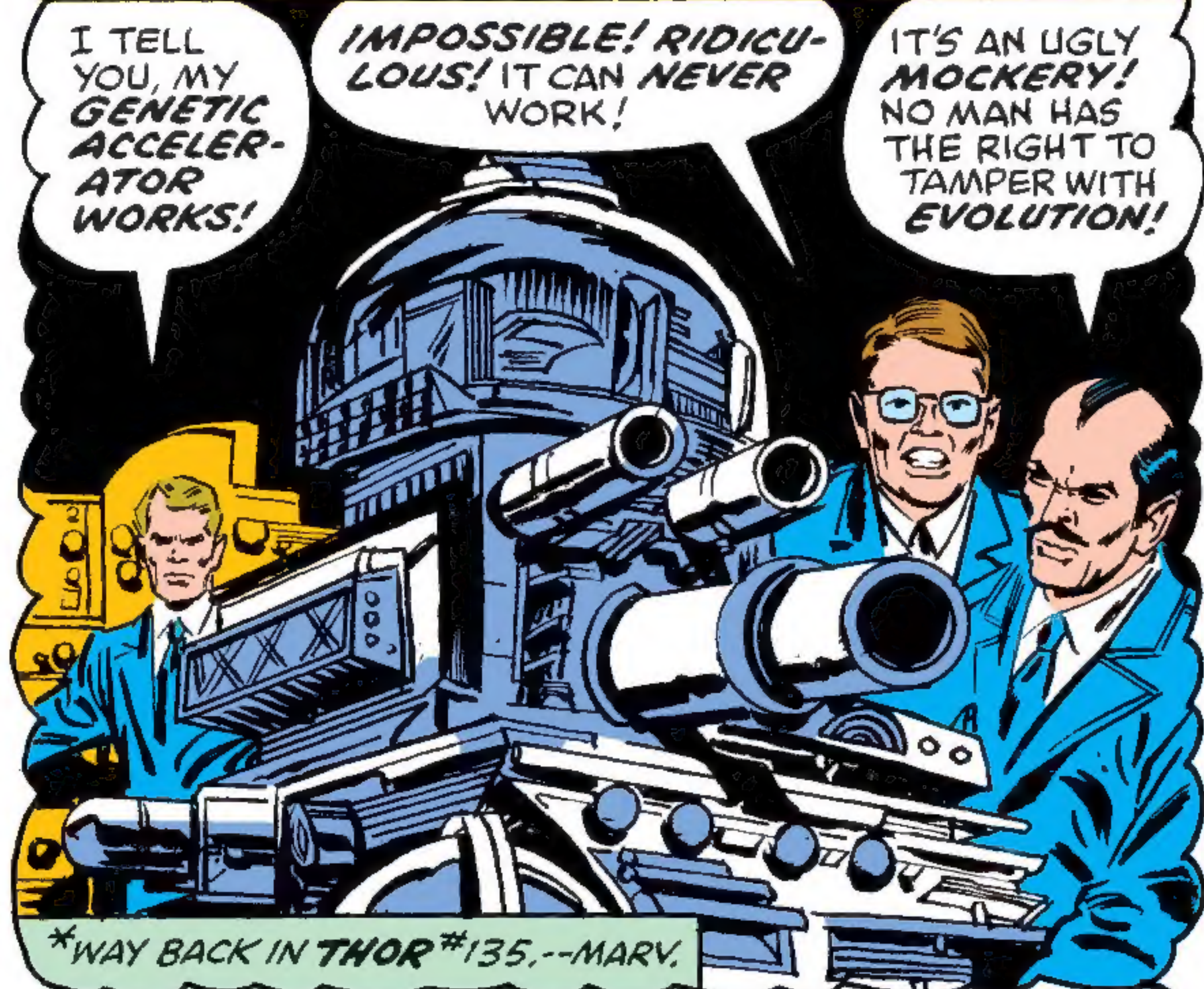
HE REACHED INTO HER MIND, AND HE **LEARNED THE TRUTH.**

\*AS SHOWN IN **MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE** #33 --MARV.

HE **LEARNED** ALL THERE WAS ABOUT THIS WOMAN, AND HE **PLAYED** THE IMAGES FOR HER TO SEE.



THERE WAS THE PICTURE OF A MAN... A PICTURE THAT WENT BACK MANY **YEARS**... TO A SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGH...\*



I TELL YOU, MY **GENETIC ACCELERATOR** WORKS!

**IMPOSSIBLE! RIDICULOUS!** IT CAN NEVER WORK!

IT'S AN UGLY **MOCKERY!** NO MAN HAS THE RIGHT TO TAMPER WITH **EVOLUTION!**

\*WAY BACK IN **THOR** #135.--MARV.

**BUT THIS MAN DID, AND HE SOUGHT OUT HIS ONLY FRIENDS.**

JOHN, YOU'RE THE **ONLY ONE** WHO BELIEVES ME... WHO **TRUSTS** ME.



AND YOU, MY FRIEND, BELIEVE IN **ME!**

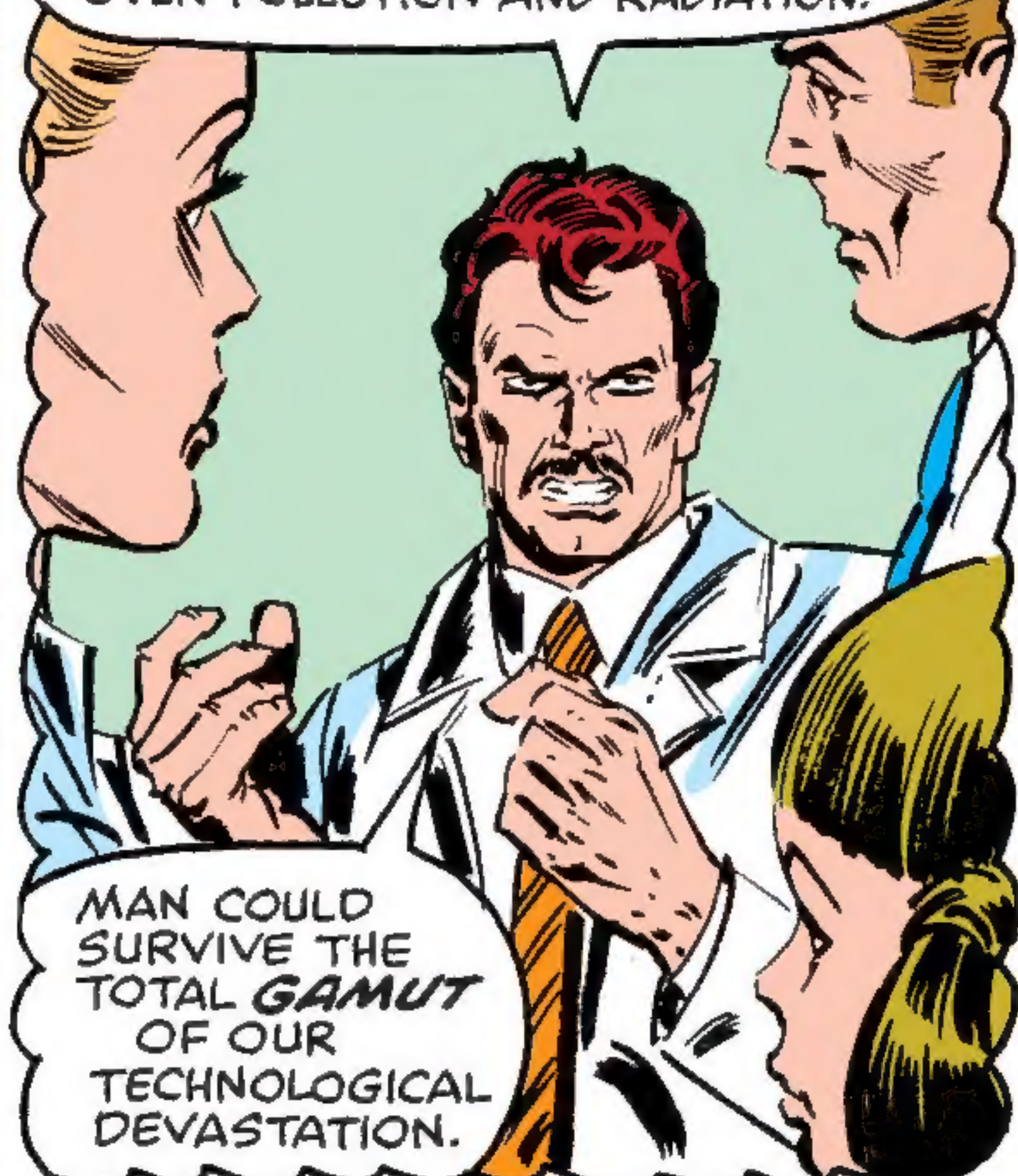
YOU STUDY **EVOLUTION**, I STUDY **ARACHNIDS**, IN A WAY, OUR SCIENCES ARE **RELATED.**

ARTHROPODS LIVED **BEFORE** MAN, THEY'LL CONTINUE TO **THRIVE** LONG AFTER WE'RE **GONE!**



THEY'VE SURVIVED THE **ICE AGE, RADIATION, POLLUTION!**

IF WE COULD SOMEHOW **INFUSE** MAN WITH THE SPECIAL PROPERTIES OF SPIDERS, THEN MAN COULD **ADAPT**... COULD **EVOLVE** INTO A BEING CAPABLE OF LIVING IN TOMORROW'S WORLD OF OVER-POLLUTION AND RADIATION.

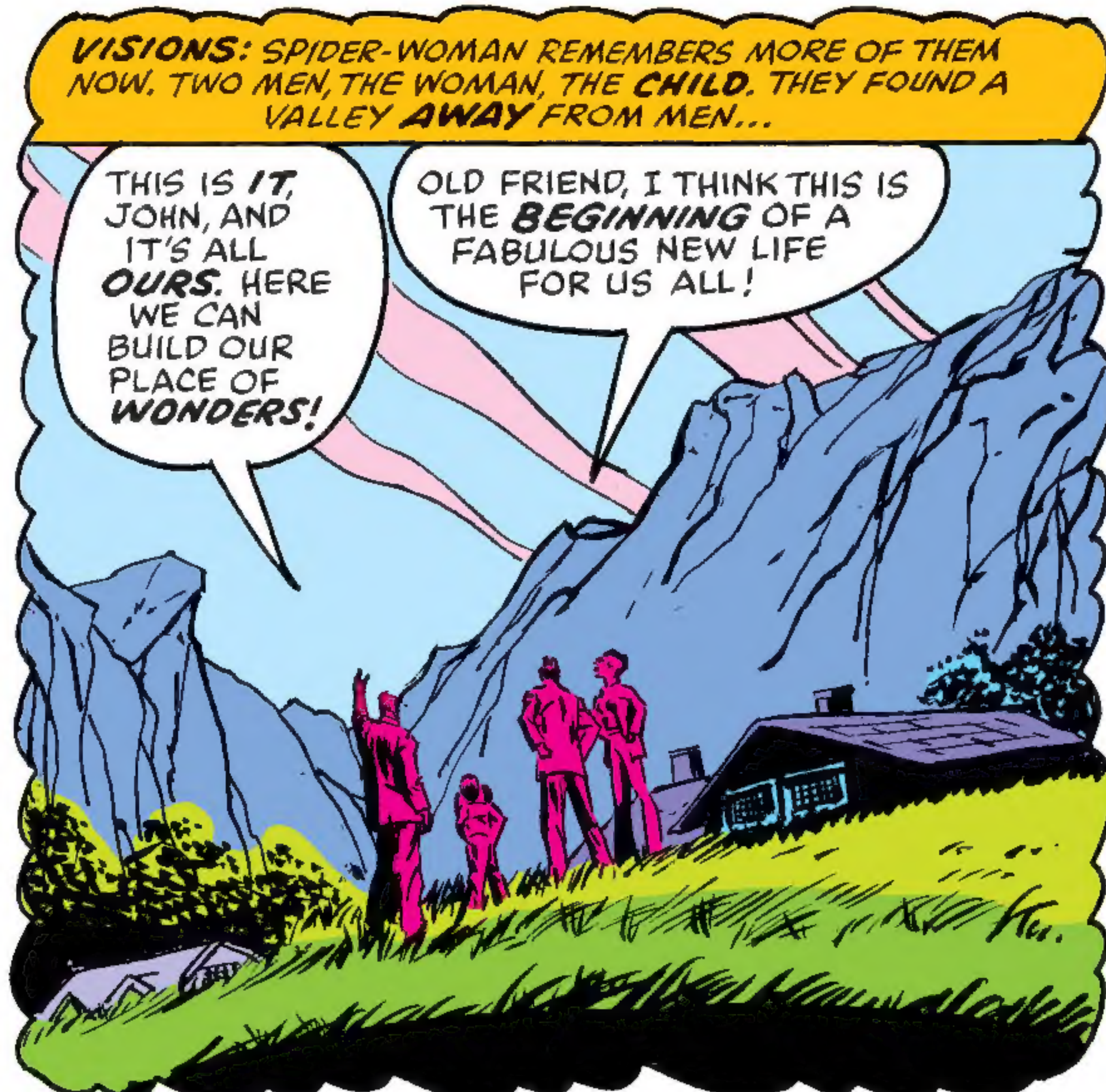


MAN COULD SURVIVE THE TOTAL **GAMUT** OF OUR TECHNOLOGICAL DEVASTATION.





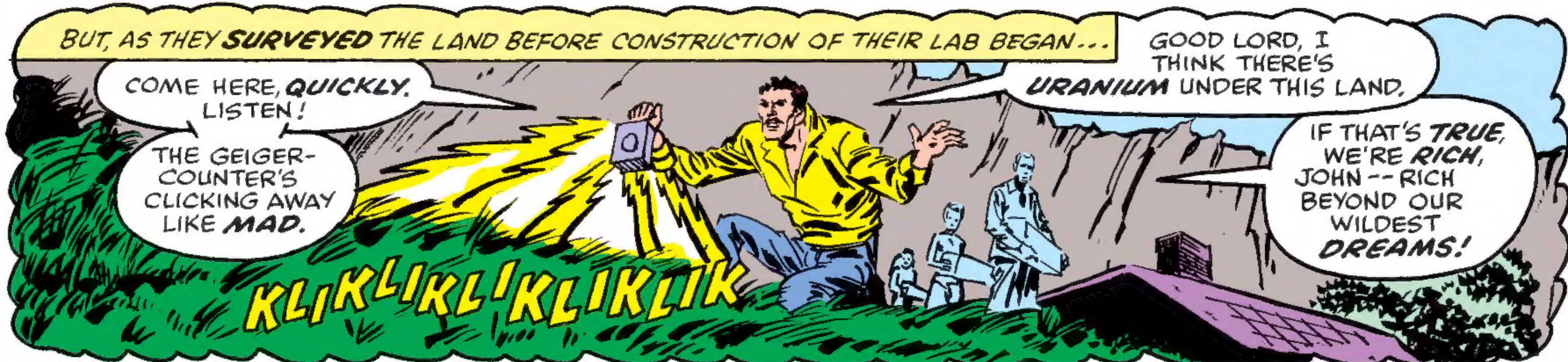
WE'RE BOTH **VISIONARIES** IN A NEAR-SIGHTED WORLD. PERHAPS IT'S TIME FOR US TO FIND A PLACE WHERE WE CAN CREATE OUR VISIONS **UNHAMPERED!**



**VISIONS:** SPIDER-WOMAN REMEMBERS MORE OF THEM NOW. TWO MEN, THE WOMAN, THE **CHILD**. THEY FOUND A VALLEY **AWAY** FROM MEN...

THIS IS **IT**, JOHN, AND IT'S ALL **OURS**. HERE WE CAN BUILD OUR PLACE OF **WONDERS!**

OLD FRIEND, I THINK THIS IS THE **BEGINNING** OF A FABULOUS NEW LIFE FOR US ALL!



BUT, AS THEY **SURVEYED** THE LAND BEFORE CONSTRUCTION OF THEIR LAB BEGAN...

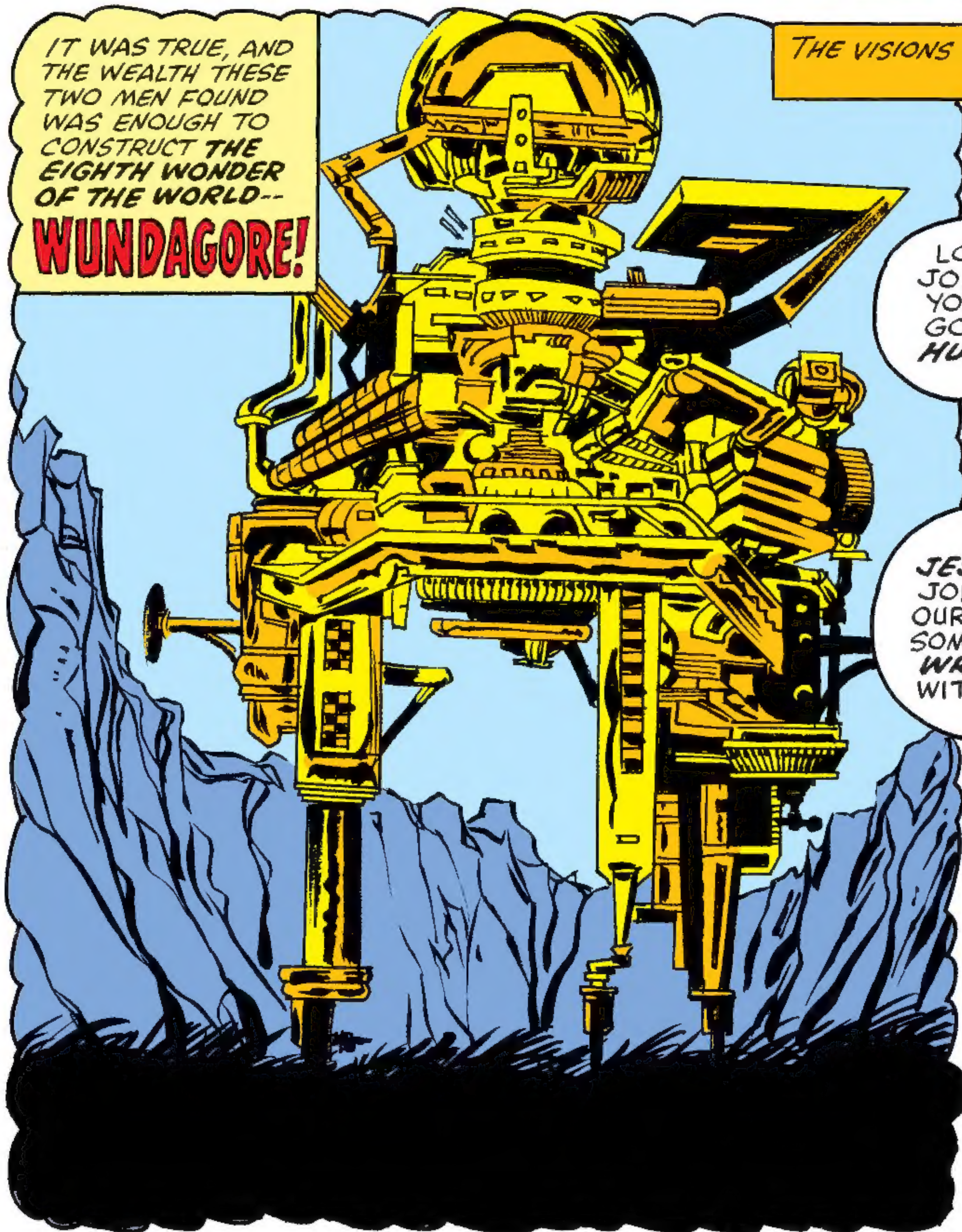
COME HERE, **QUICKLY**. LISTEN!

THE GEIGER-COUNTER'S CLICKING AWAY LIKE **MAD**.

GOOD LORD, I THINK THERE'S **URANIUM** UNDER THIS LAND.

IF THAT'S **TRUE**, WE'RE **RICH**, JOHN-- RICH BEYOND OUR WILDEST **DREAMS!**

**KLIKLIKLIKLIKLIK**



IT WAS **TRUE**, AND THE WEALTH THESE TWO MEN FOUND WAS ENOUGH TO CONSTRUCT THE **EIGHTH WONDER OF THE WORLD--**

**WUNDAGORE!**

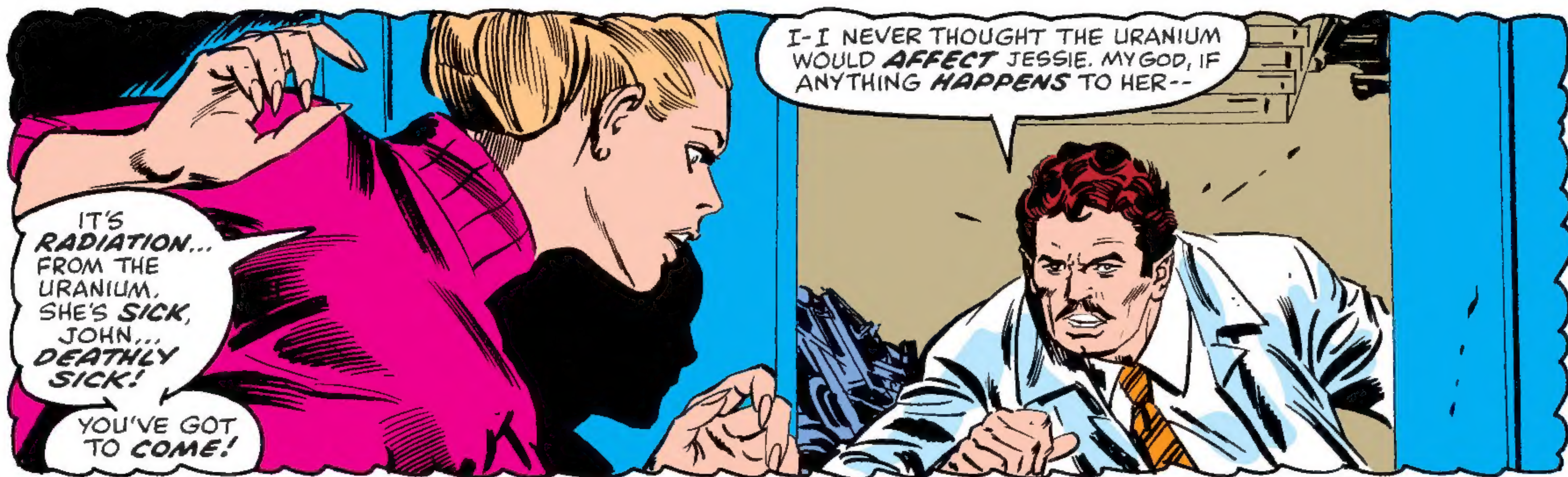
THE VISIONS SHIFT NOW. MONTHS LATER AS THE TWO DEDICATED SCIENTISTS WORK...

LORD! JOHN-- YOU'VE GOT TO **HURRY!**

IT'S **JESSICA**. JOHN, IT'S OUR **BABY**. SOMETHING'S **WRONG** WITH HER!

WRONG--?

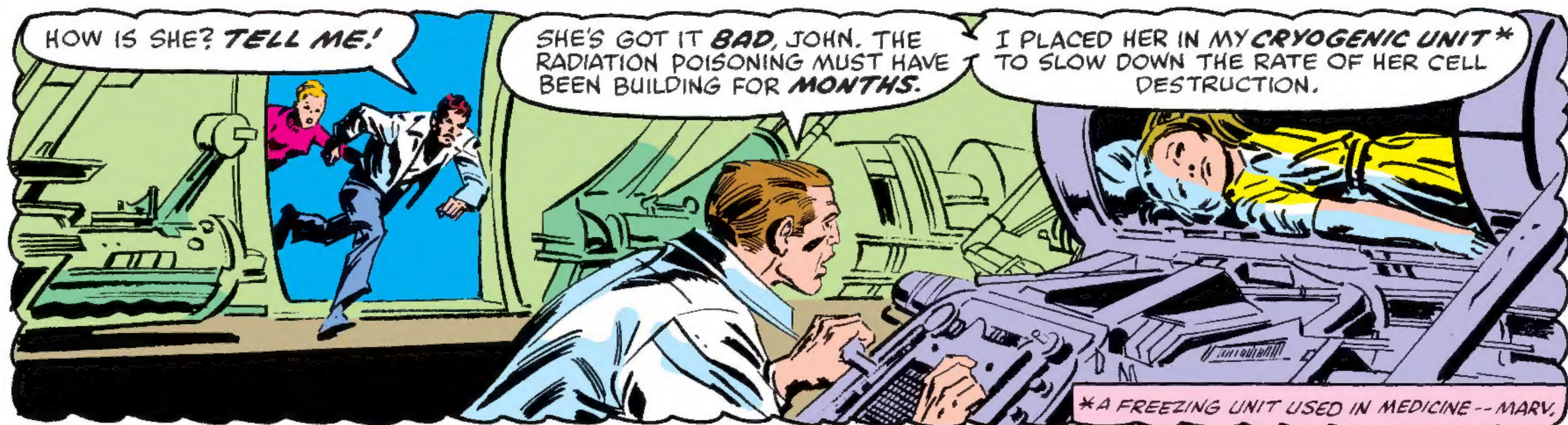




IT'S RADIATION... FROM THE URANIUM, SHE'S SICK, JOHN... DEATHLY SICK!

YOU'VE GOT TO COME!

I-I NEVER THOUGHT THE URANIUM WOULD AFFECT JESSIE. MY GOD, IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO HER--



HOW IS SHE? TELL ME!

SHE'S GOT IT BAD, JOHN. THE RADIATION POISONING MUST HAVE BEEN BUILDING FOR MONTHS.

I PLACED HER IN MY CRYOGENIC UNIT\* TO SLOW DOWN THE RATE OF HER CELL DESTRUCTION.

\*A FREEZING UNIT USED IN MEDICINE -- MARV.

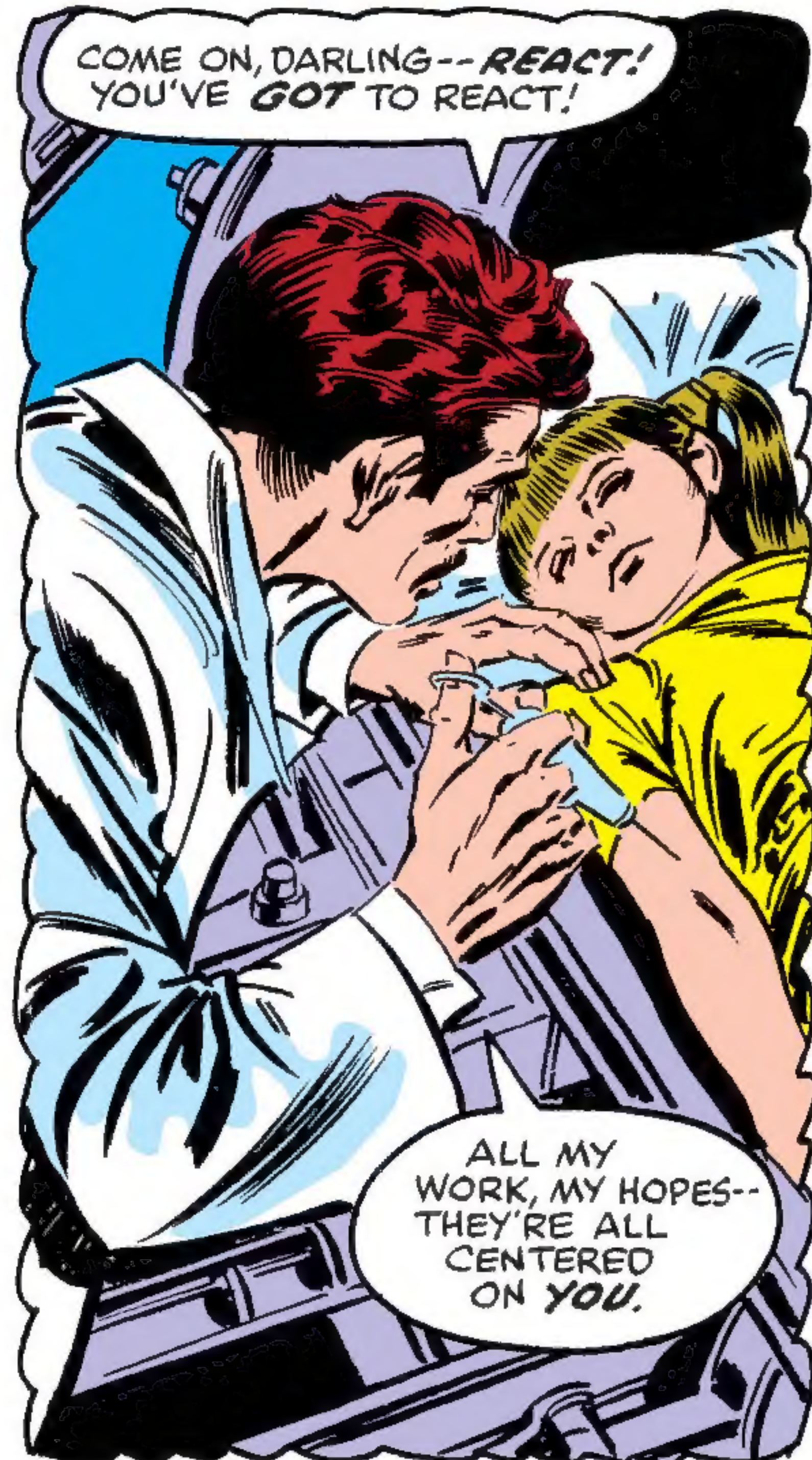


BUT THERE'S NOTHING I-- OR ANY OTHER MAN--CAN DO FOR HER. I'M SORRY, JOHN.

YOU'RE WRONG, OLD FRIEND. I CAN DO SOMETHING!

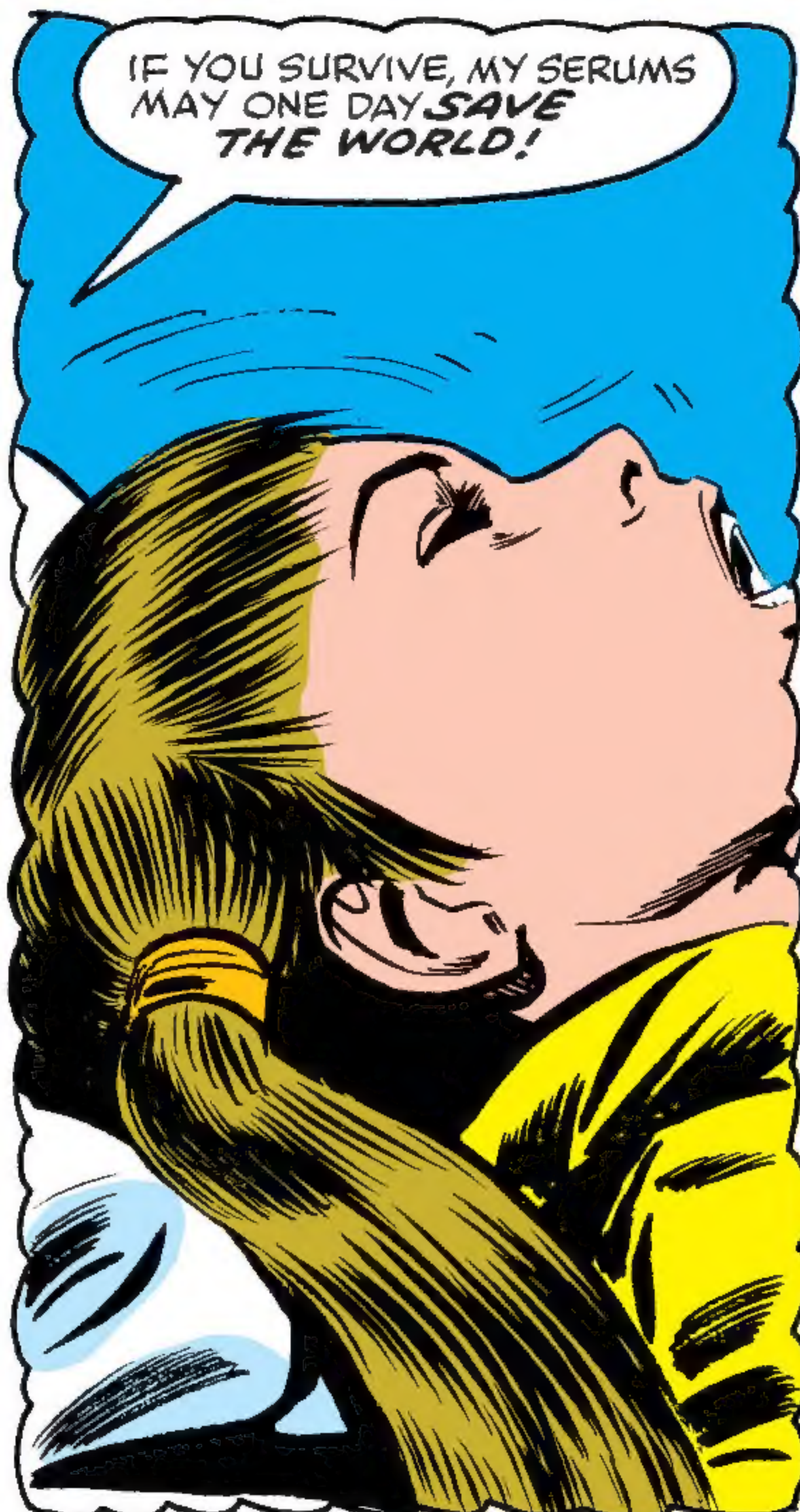
I'VE BEEN WORKING ON MY SERUMS FOR MONTHS NOW. AND THIS ONE, MY SPIDER EXTRACT-- IS THE FULL-FILLMENT OF ALL THAT WORK.

IF IT WORKS, JESSICA WILL BE ABLE TO SURVIVE THE RADIATION. SHE'LL ADAPT TO IT. SHE'LL LIVE!

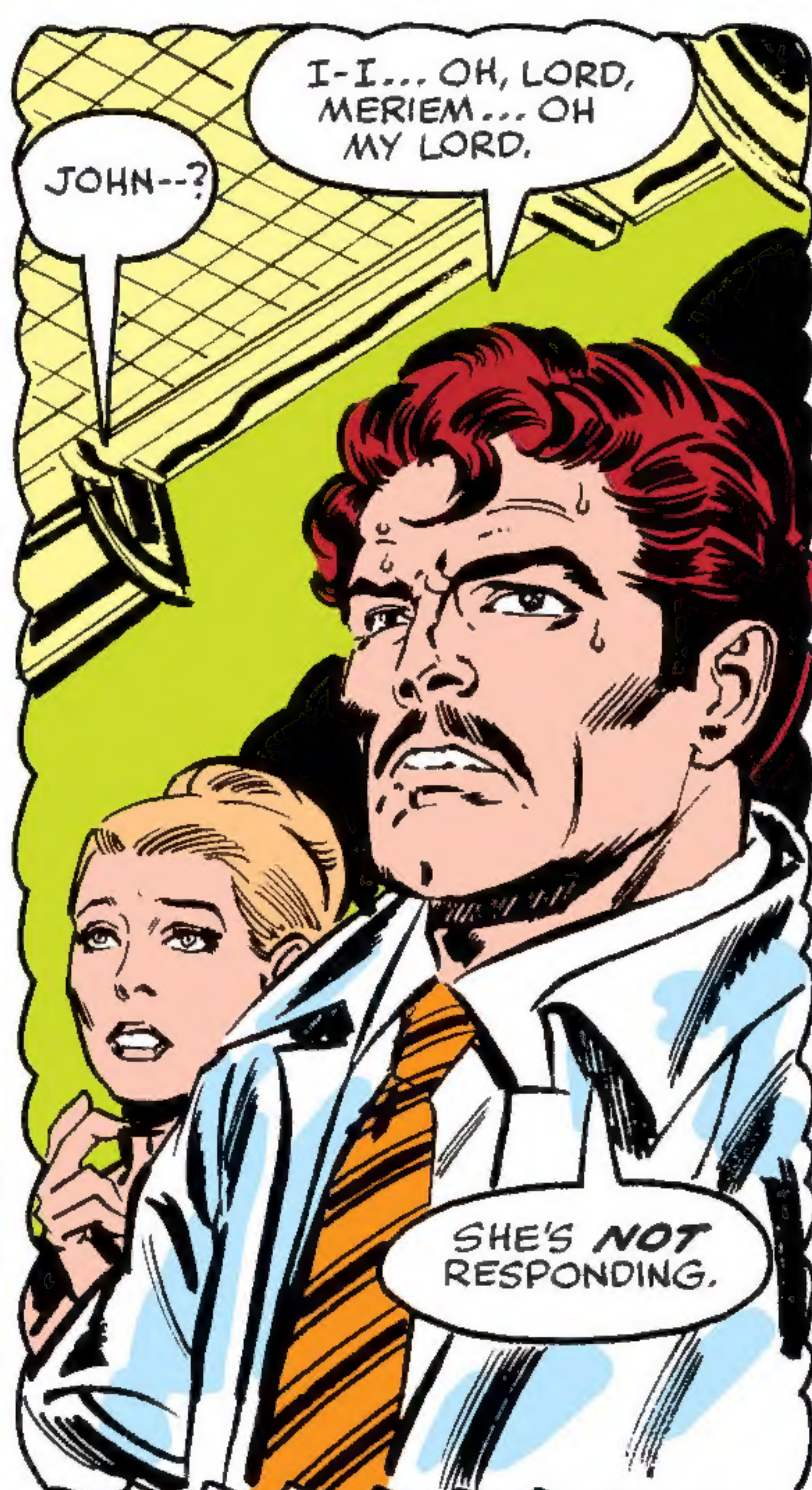


COME ON, DARLING-- REACT! YOU'VE GOT TO REACT!

ALL MY WORK, MY HOPES-- THEY'RE ALL CENTERED ON YOU.



IF YOU SURVIVE, MY SERUMS MAY ONE DAY SAVE THE WORLD!

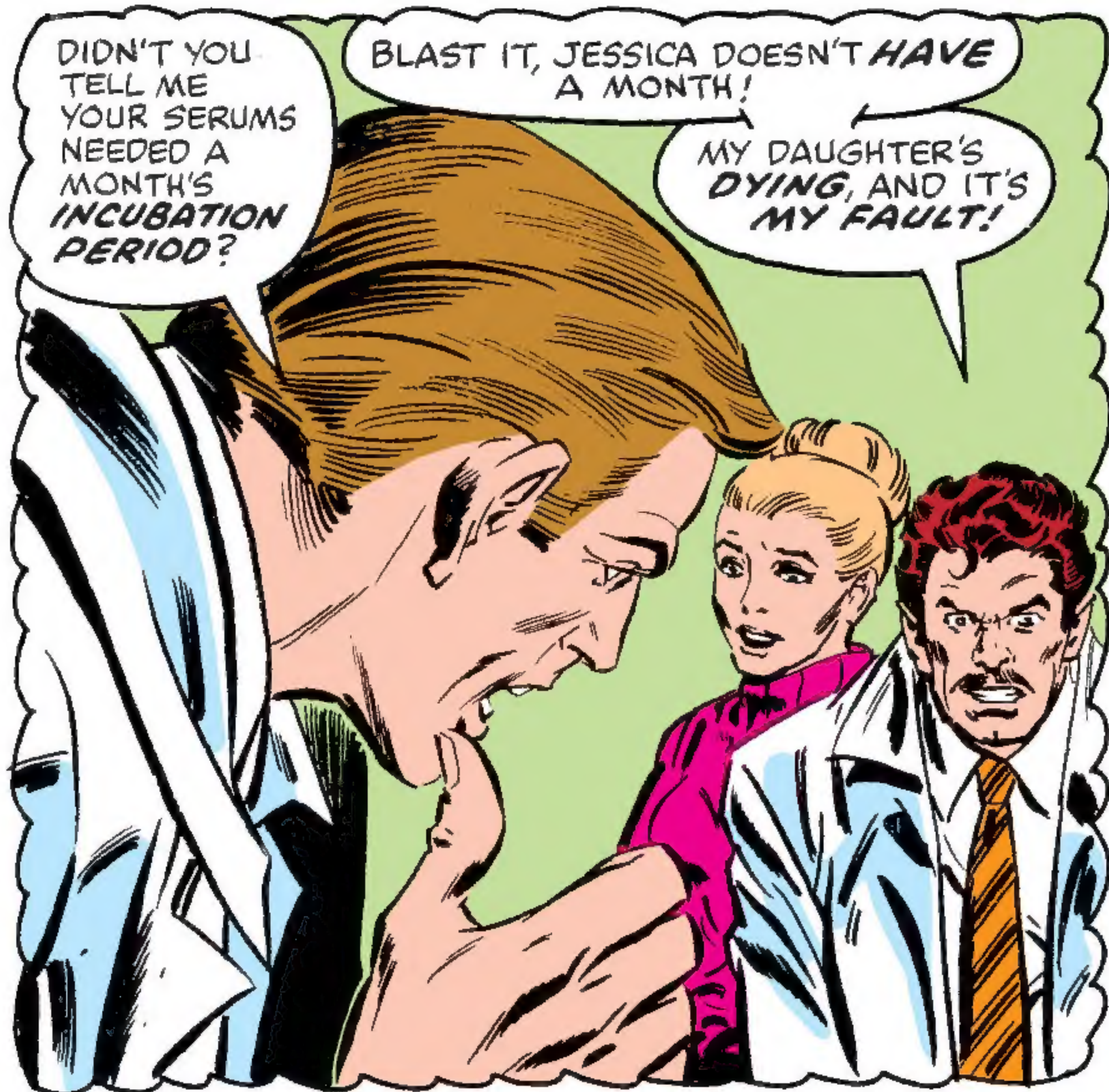


JOHN--?

I-I... OH, LORD, MERIEM... OH MY LORD.

SHE'S NOT RESPONDING.





DIDN'T YOU TELL ME YOUR SERUMS NEEDED A MONTH'S INCUBATION PERIOD?

BLAST IT, JESSICA DOESN'T *HAVE* A MONTH!

MY DAUGHTER'S DYING, AND IT'S MY FAULT!

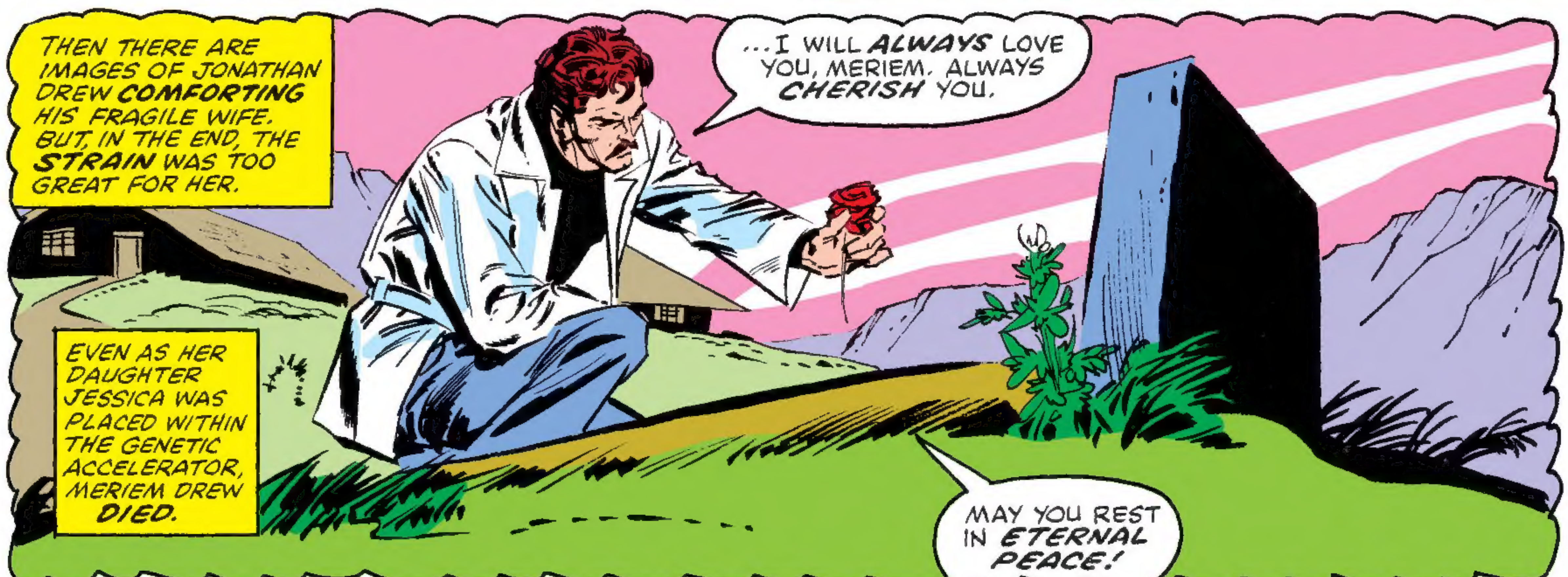


NOT NECESSARILY, JOHN. IT'S MY TURN TO HELP NOW-- WITH MY *GENETIC ACCELERATOR!*

PERHAPS I CAN SPEED UP THE INCUBATION TIME. IT WILL BE *RISKY*, BUT--

NO! I WON'T HAVE MY DAUGHTER TURNED INTO A *GUINEA PIG!*

YOU CAN'T HAVE HER! YOU CAN'T!



THEN THERE ARE IMAGES OF JONATHAN DREW COMFORTING HIS FRAGILE WIFE. BUT, IN THE END, THE *STRAIN* WAS TOO GREAT FOR HER.

...I WILL *ALWAYS* LOVE YOU, MERIEM. ALWAYS *CHERISH* YOU.

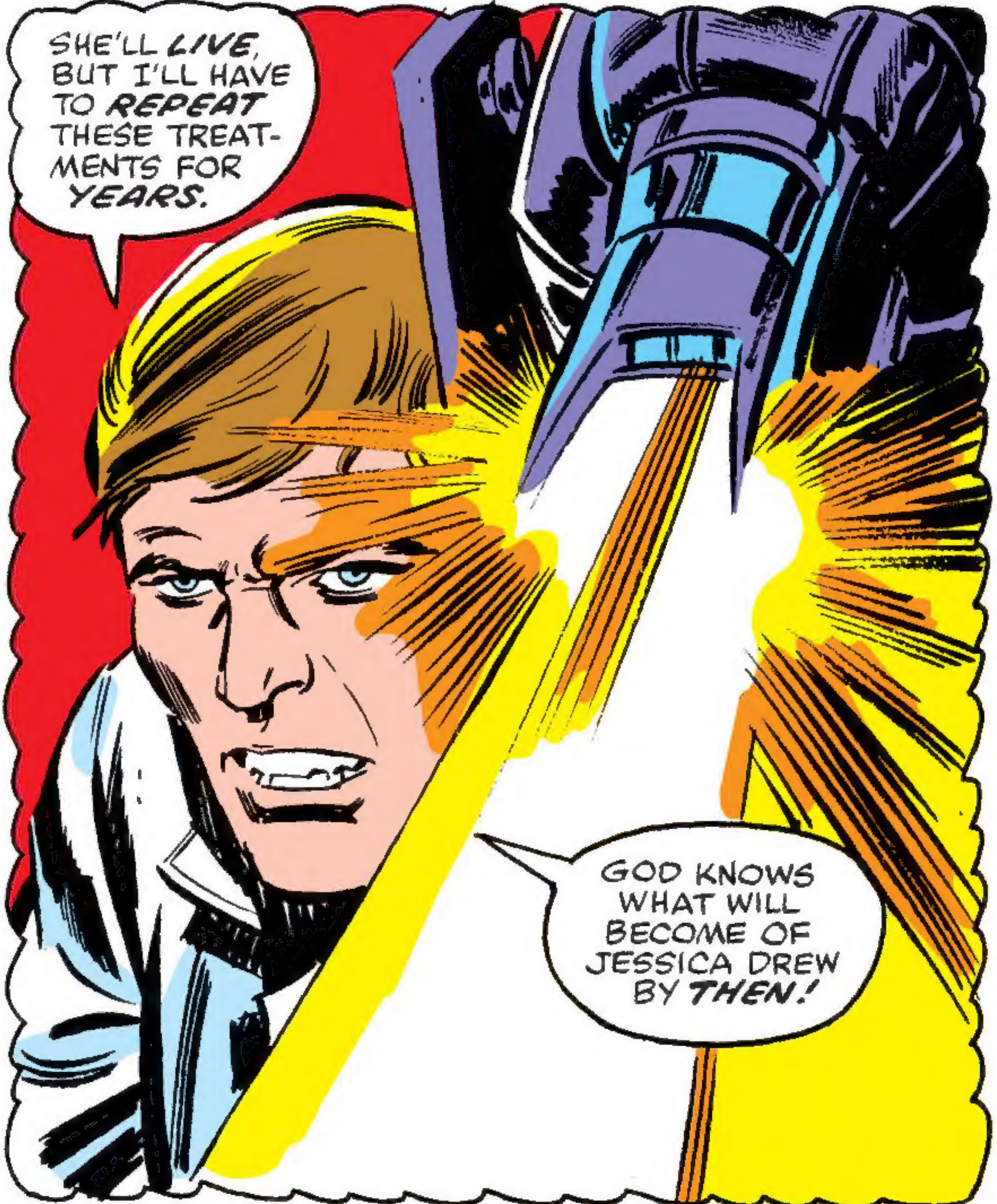
EVEN AS HER DAUGHTER JESSICA WAS PLACED WITHIN THE GENETIC ACCELERATOR, MERIEM DREW DIED.

MAY YOU REST IN *ETERNAL PEACE!*



MYSTERIOUSLY, JONATHAN DREW *VANISHED*. BUT FOR HIS FRIEND, WORK *CONTINUED*...

INCREDIBLE! THE ACCELERATOR'S BUILDING ON JOHN'S SERUM-- IN WAYS I NEVER EXPECTED.



SHE'LL LIVE, BUT I'LL HAVE TO *REPEAT* THESE TREATMENTS FOR YEARS.

GOD KNOWS WHAT WILL BECOME OF JESSICA DREW BY THEN!



THE YEARS PASSED, AND THE SCIENTIST HIMSELF TOOK ON A NEW IDENTITY. HE WAS NOW-- THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY... CREATOR OF MIRACLES!\*

AND, AT LAST, HIS WORK WITH JESSICA DREW WAS OVER.

SUCCESS. UN-ACCOUNTABLE EONS OF EVOLUTION... ACHIEVED IN MERE MOMENTS!

IN THE PAST I HAVE WROUGHT "NEW MEN" FROM VARIOUS ANIMAL SPECIES, BUT THIS SUCCESS IS *UNIQUE* COMPARED WITH MY OTHERS.

FOR THIS WAS THE FIRST USE OF A HUMAN BEING IN MY WORK. JESSICA DREW, CHILD OF MY LONG-LOST FRIEND, LIVES... BUT SHE IS NOW *HALF SPIDER!*

\*MARVEL SPOT-LIGHT #32 -- MARV.

THE VISIONS... THEY'RE OVER, AND ONCE AGAIN THEY SHOW ME FOR WHAT I AM. NEITHER HUMAN NOR SPIDER.

WHILE I WAS WITH THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY, HIS OTHER CREATURES SHUNNED ME, FOR I WAS A REBORN HUMAN, AND NOT AN ANIMAL. YET, I WAS NOT *QUITE* HUMAN, EITHER.

I WAS *HATED* THERE. NO WONDER I FLED WUNDAGORE... TO SEARCH THE WORLD.

BUT, I WAS *CAPTURED* AGAIN, TRAPPED IN A SECOND PRISON, THIS ONE CONTROLLED BY A GROUP CALLED *HYDRA*. THEY *BRAIN-WASHED* ME...

...CONTROLLED ME, I WAS THEIR *PUPPET*.

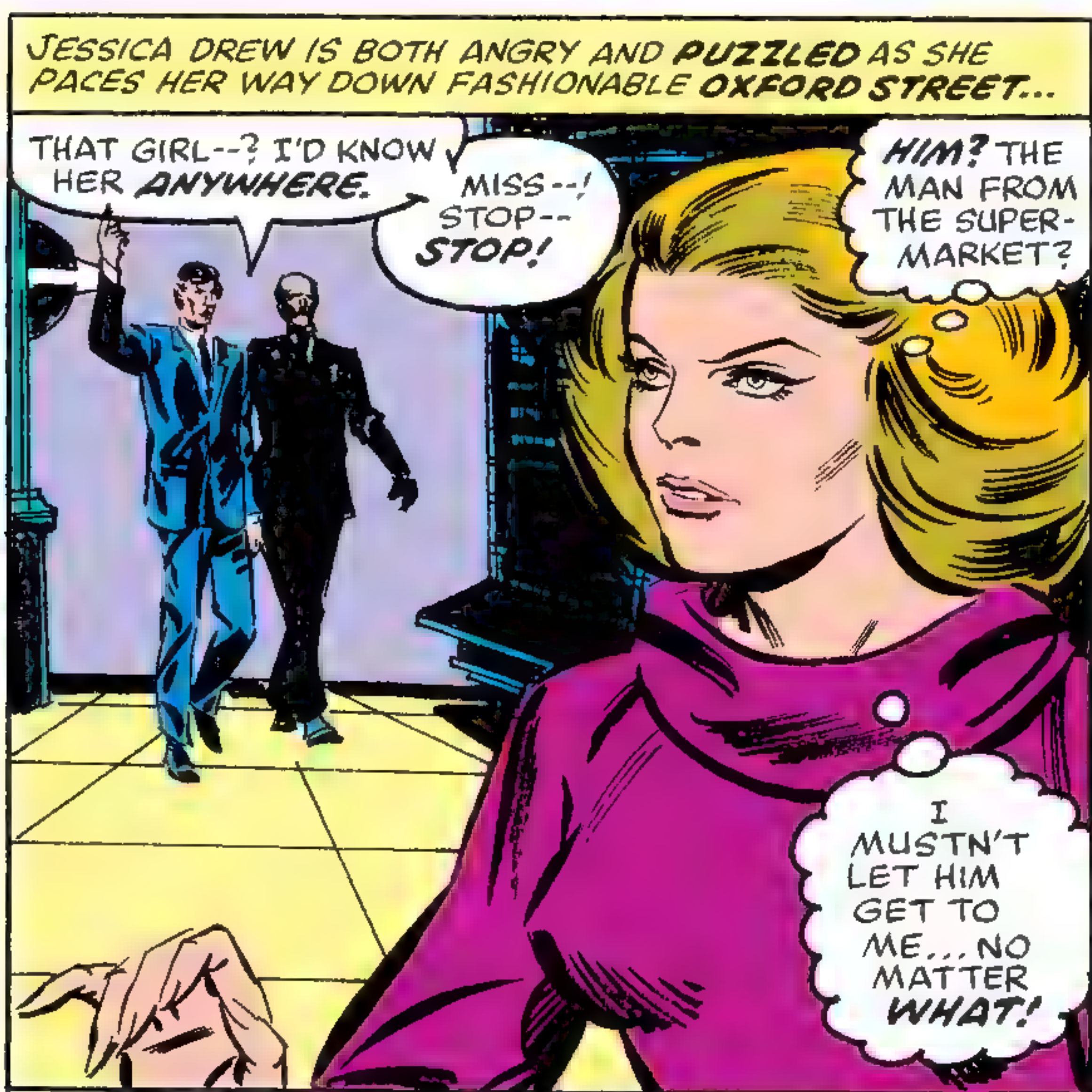
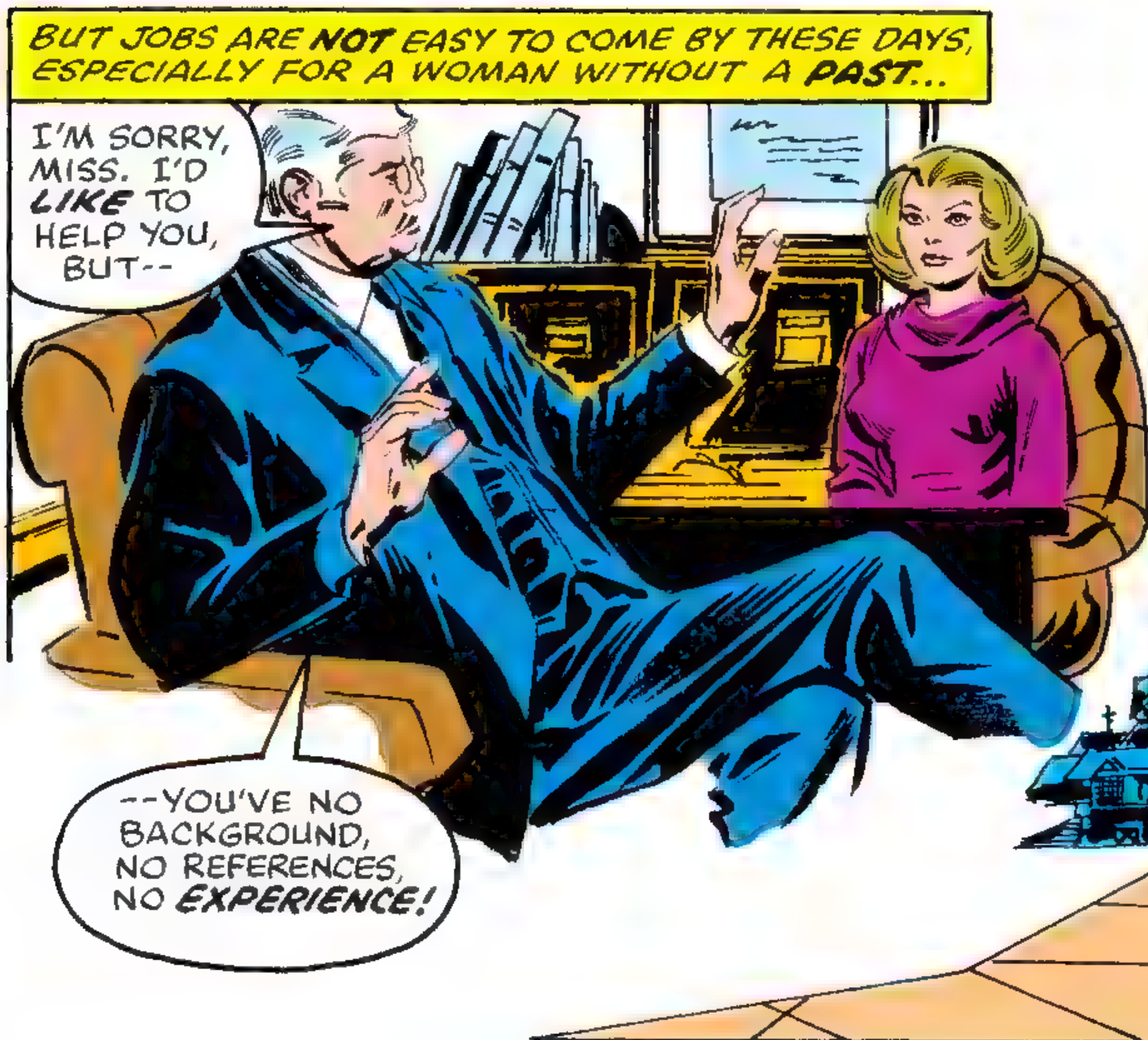
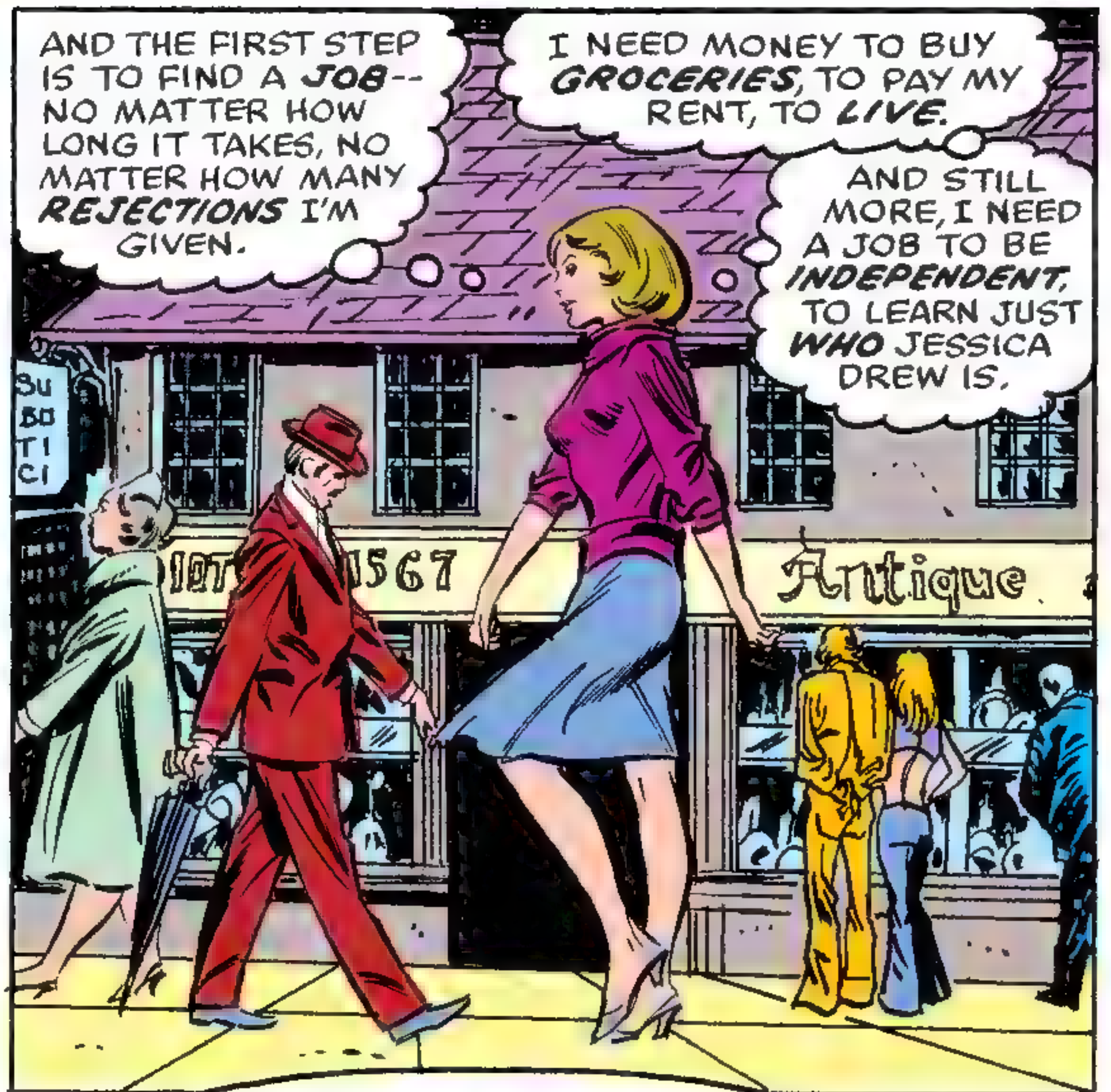
BUT I NO LONGER BELONG TO ANYONE. I'M FREE NOW. I'M BY *MYSELF* AT LAST. BUT, HEAVEN HELP ME, IT STILL MAKES *NO DIFFERENCE!*

NOW IT'S *PEOPLE* WHO SHUN ME... PEOPLE WHO *RUN* FROM ME.

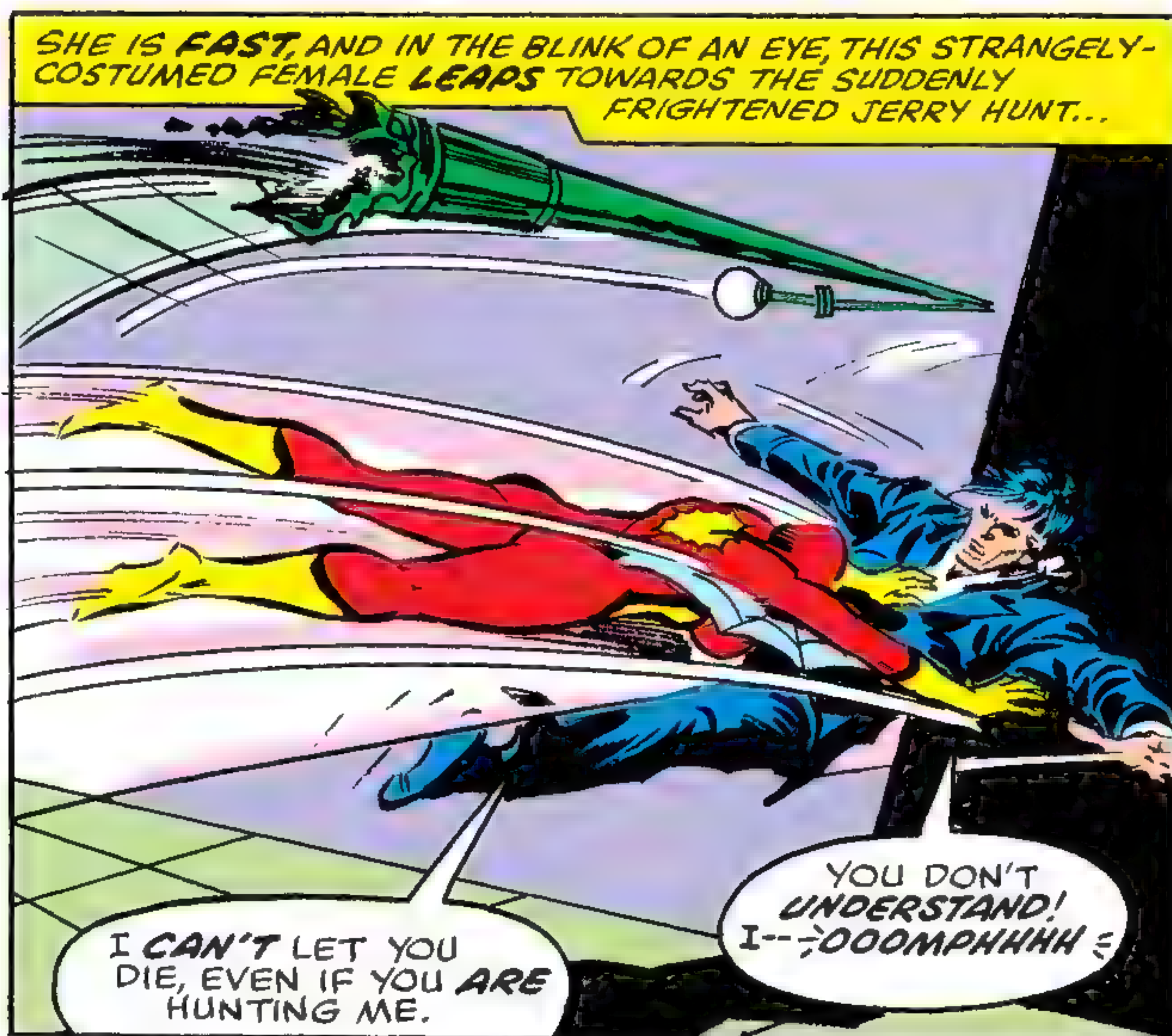
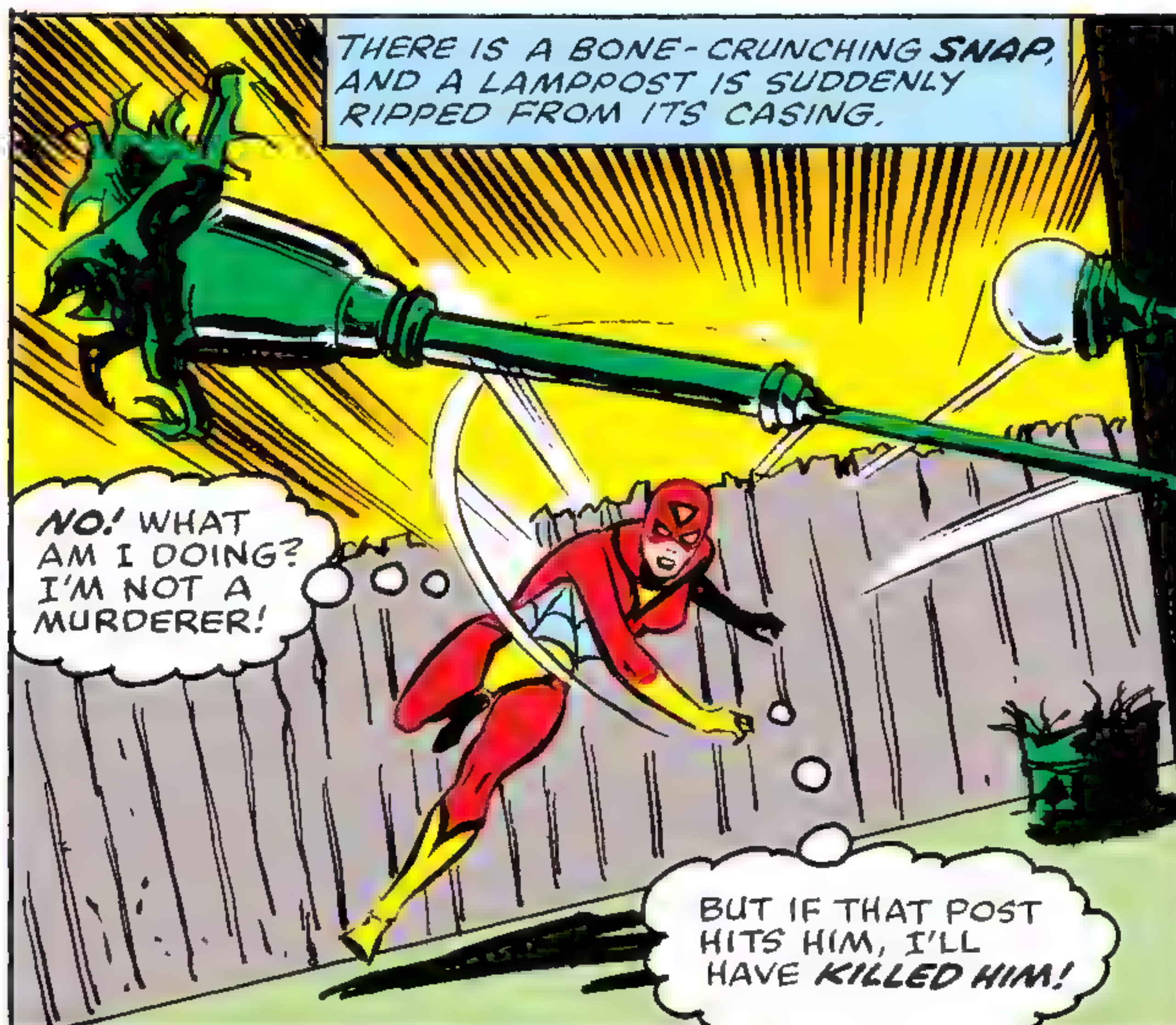
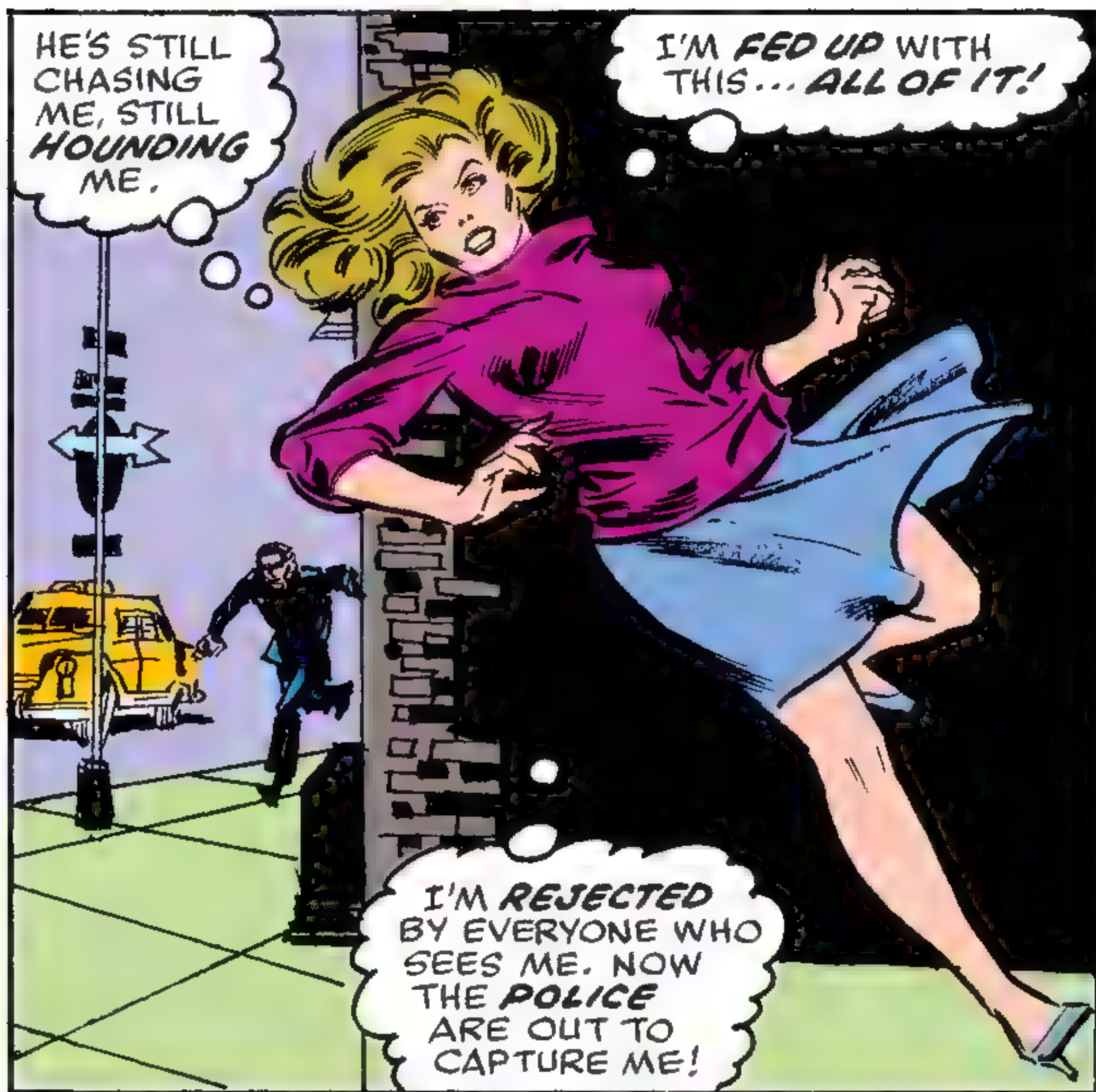
I MAY *LOOK* AND FEEL HUMAN, BUT I'VE THE *BLOOD OF A SPIDER* COURSING THROUGH MY VEINS.

I'M A *SPIDER-WOMAN*, AND WHEREVER I GO, I TAKE THAT DEADLY *CURSE* WITH ME.







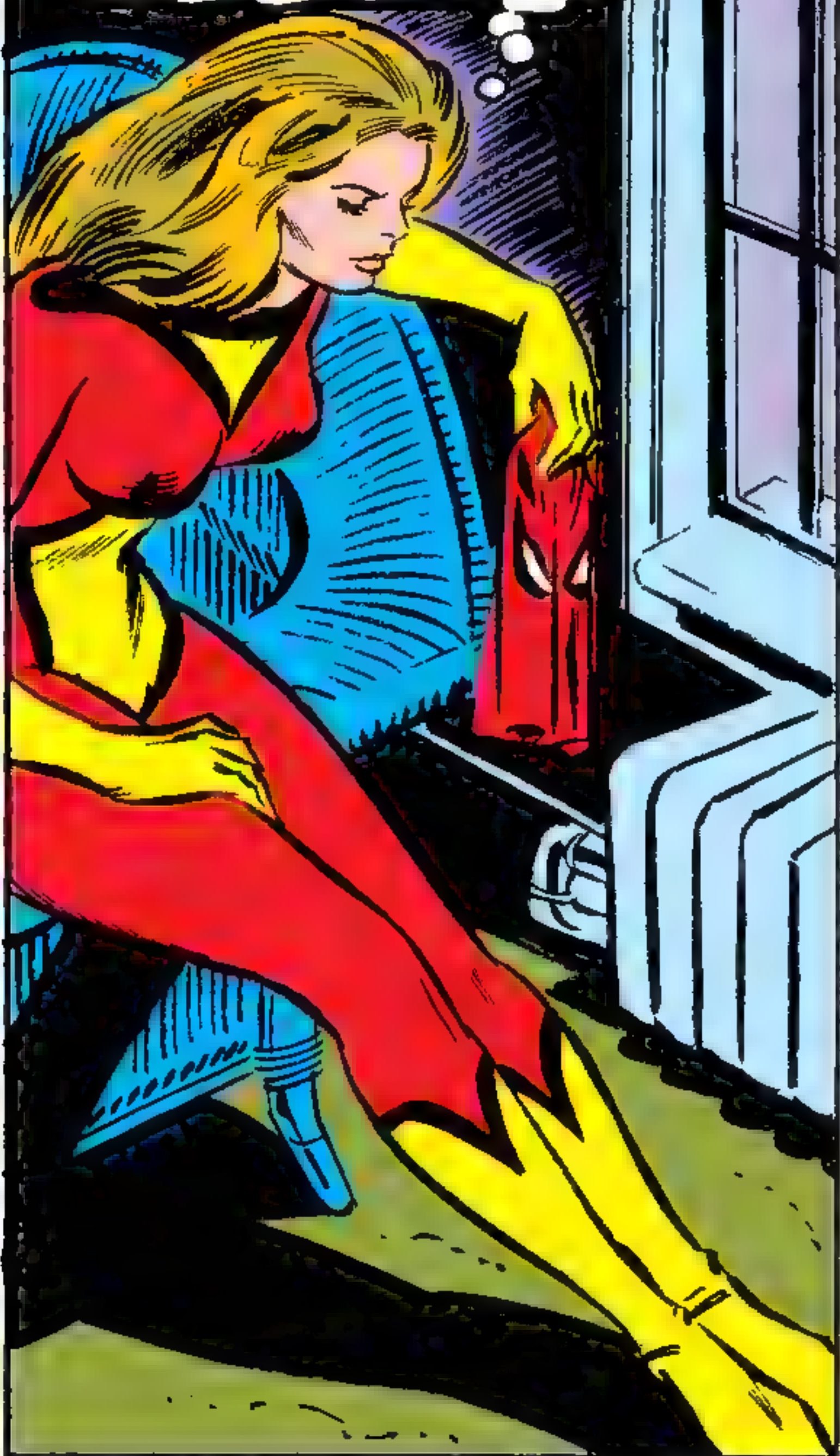




A WEEK PASSES, THEN TWO MORE. AND FINALLY...

HE KNOWS WHAT I **LOOK** LIKE BE-NEATH MY MASK, AND WITH MY **REPU-TATION** AROUND HERE, I WON'T BE **TOO DIFFICULT** TO TRACK DOWN.

WHICH MEANS I'VE GOT TO **DISGUISE** MYSELF MORE THAN I ALREADY HAVE.



A LITTLE BLACK **HAIR DYE** WILL TAKE CARE OF JESSICA DREW, AND I'LL NEED A **NEW MASK** FOR SPIDER-WOMAN.

THOUGH I'VE STILL GOT TO DECIDE **WHY** I MUST BE TWO PEOPLE. WHY THERE IS BOTH A JESSICA DREW **AND** A SPIDER-WOMAN.



I WAS TOLD THERE ARE **SUPER-HEROES** IN AMERICA WHO KEEP THEIR TRUE IDENTITIES A **SECRET**... TO PROTECT THEMSELVES, I BELIEVE.

BUT I'M **NOT** A HERO. I'VE NO INTENTIONS OF **BECOM-ING** ONE.

I'M JESSICA DREW, CALLED **ARACHNE** BY HYDRA, CALLED **SPIDER-WOMAN** BY ALL OTHERS.

MAYBE... THAT'S **WHY** I FLIT BACK AND FORTH, WEARING THIS GAUDY **COSTUME** AND STILL TRY TO PASS FOR **NORMAL**.

I WAS **BORN** HUMAN, AND I'VE BECOME SOMETHING **DIFFERENT**. I AM **TWO BEINGS**; JESSICA MY **HUMAN** HALF, SPIDER-WOMAN MY -- **EH?**



GUNSHOTS? I'D SWEAR THEY'RE COMING FROM **PARLIAMENT!**



I WAS RIGHT, AND THERE'S THAT **COP** WHO'S BEEN **CHASING** ME, PINNED DOWN BY TWO **CRIMINALS!**

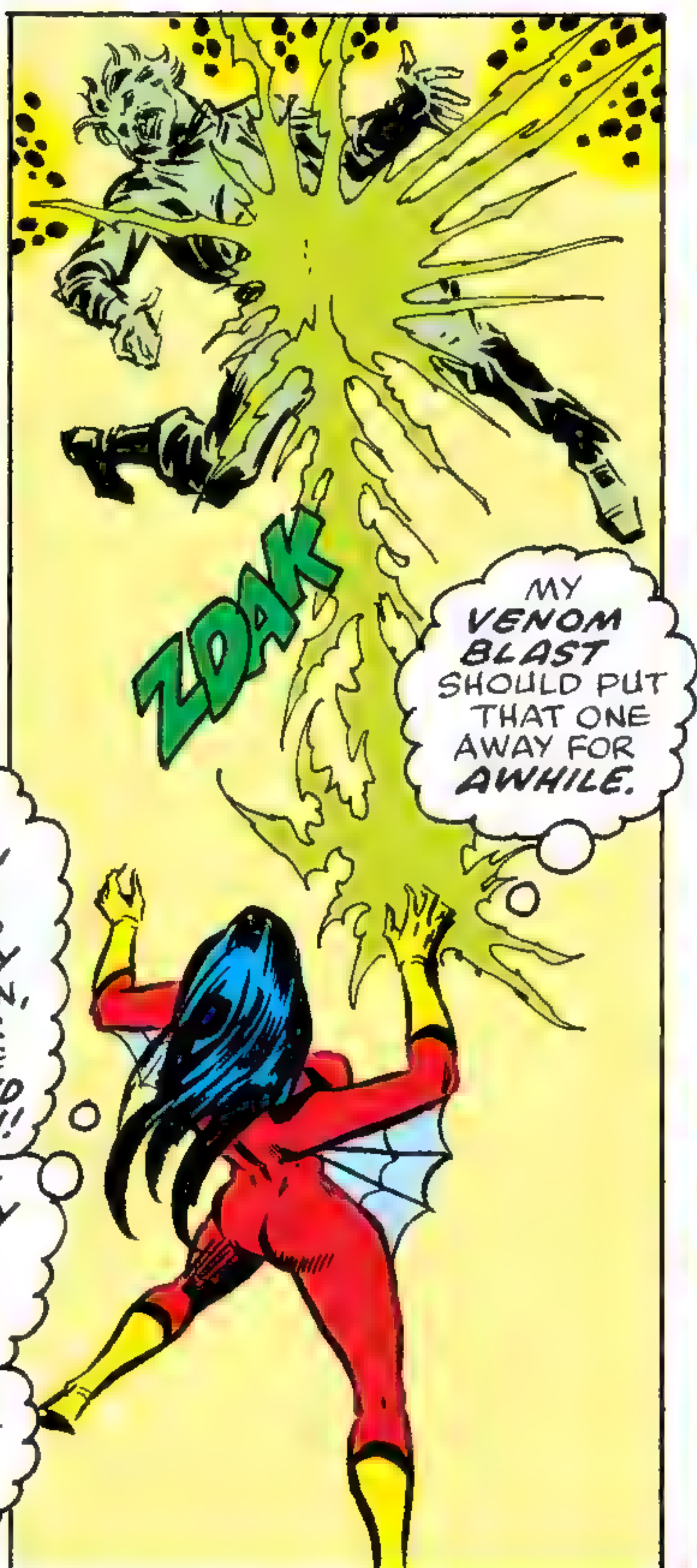
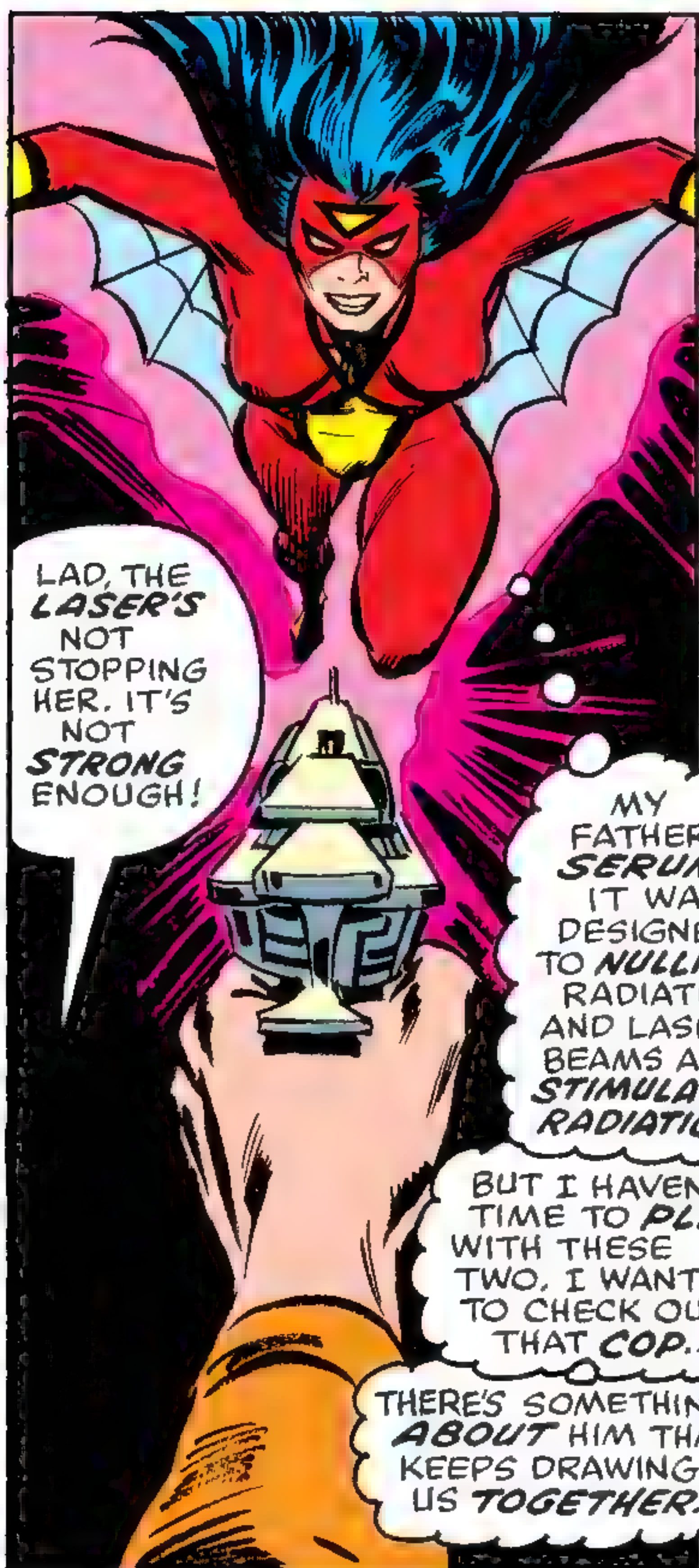


WAIT! I-I REMEMBER THEM! I SAW THEM WHEN I ATTACKED BEN GRIMM AT WEST-MINSTER ABBEY,\* AND THEN AGAIN WHEN I MET MODRED.\*\*

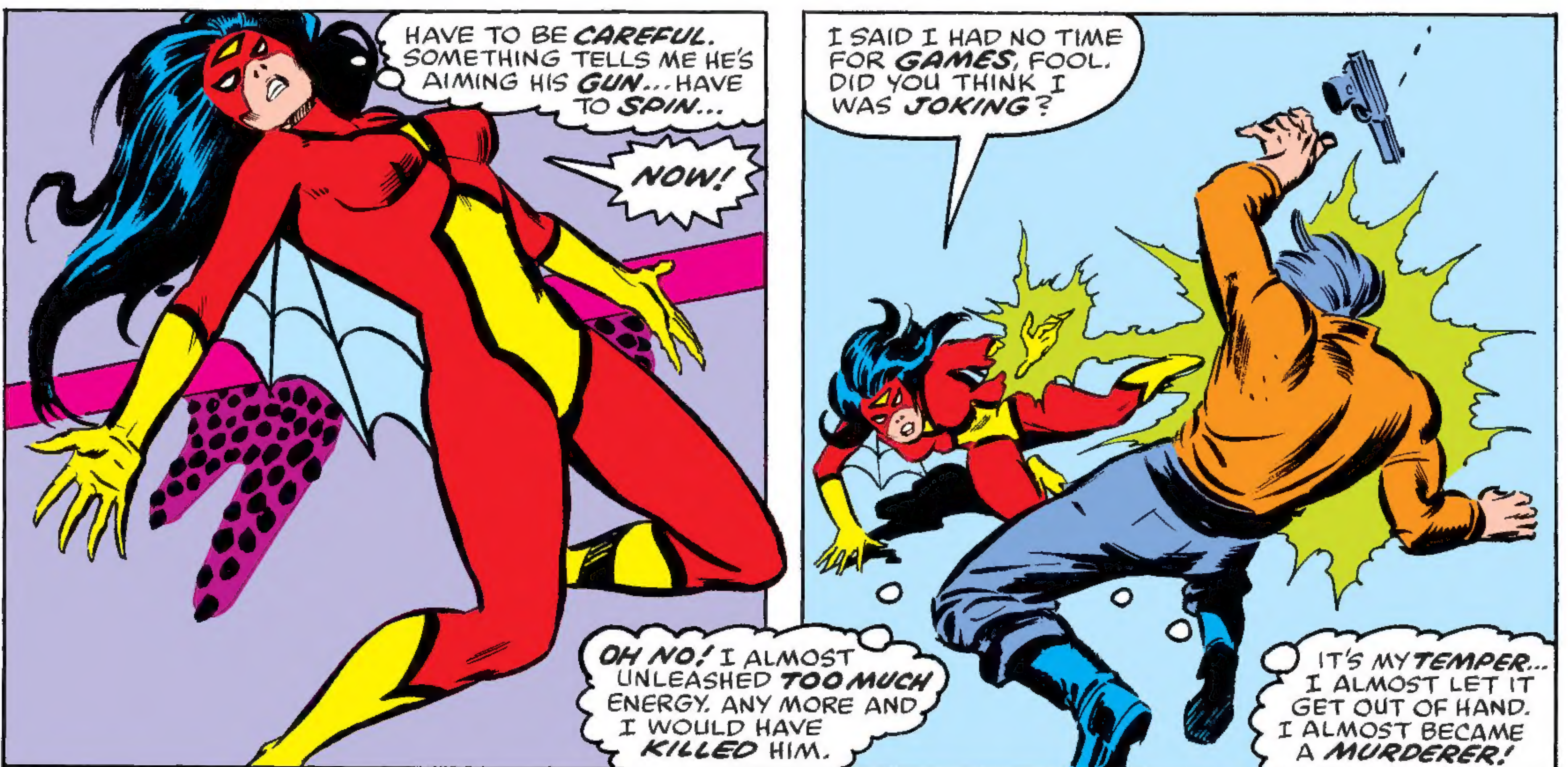
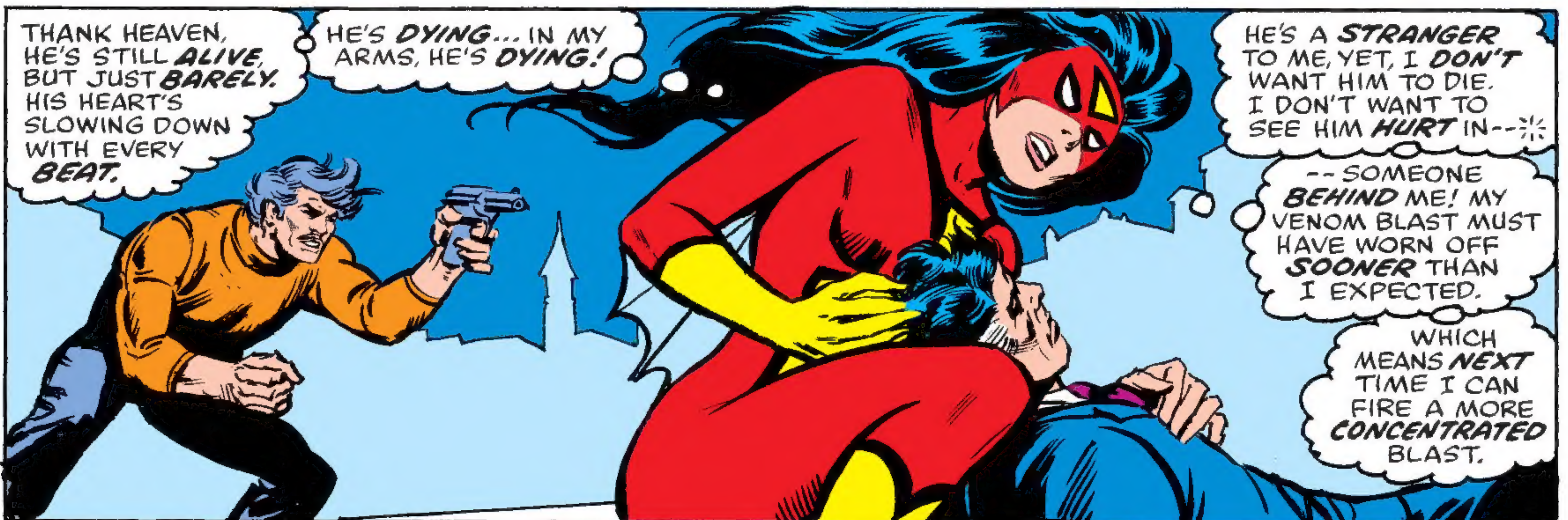
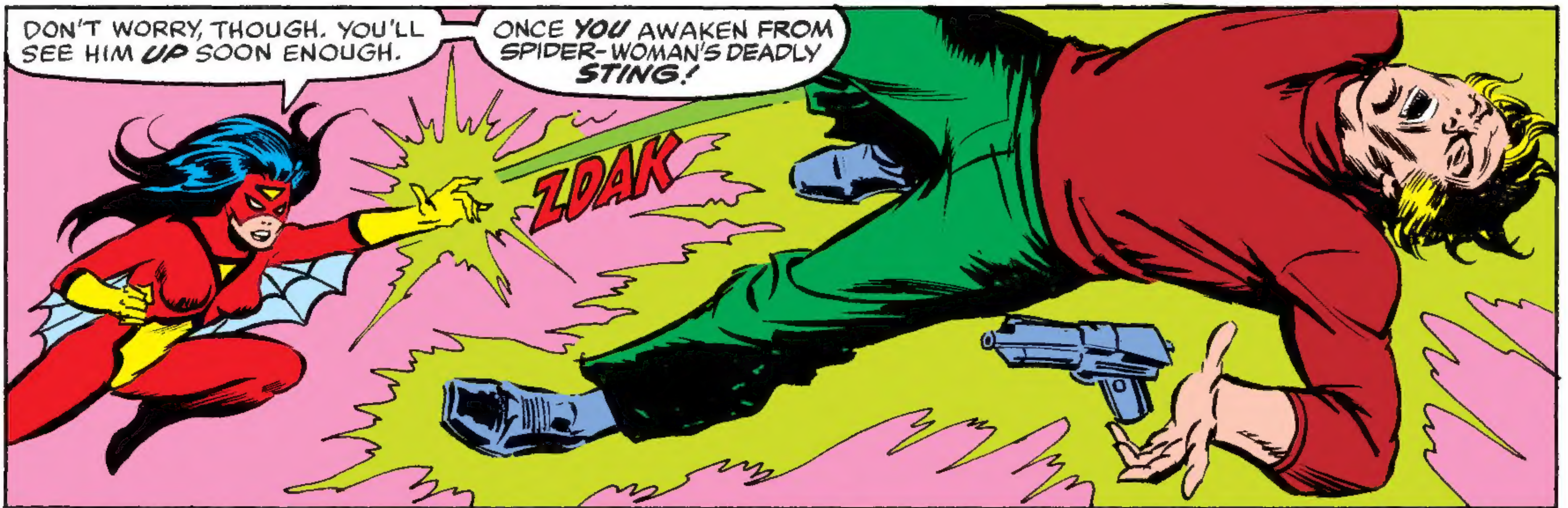
\* MTIO#29 -- MARV.

\*\* MTIO#33 -- MARV AGAIN!

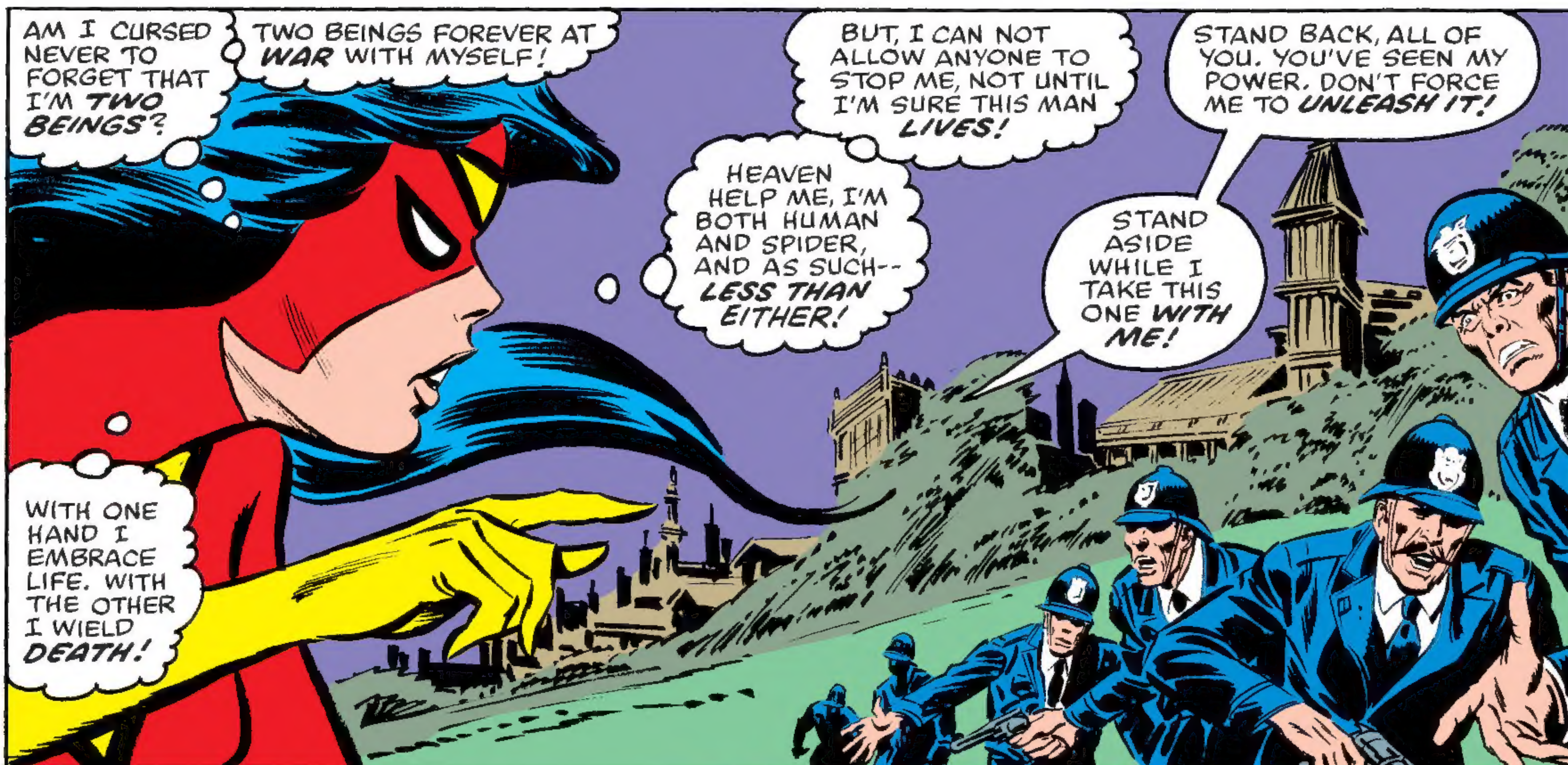




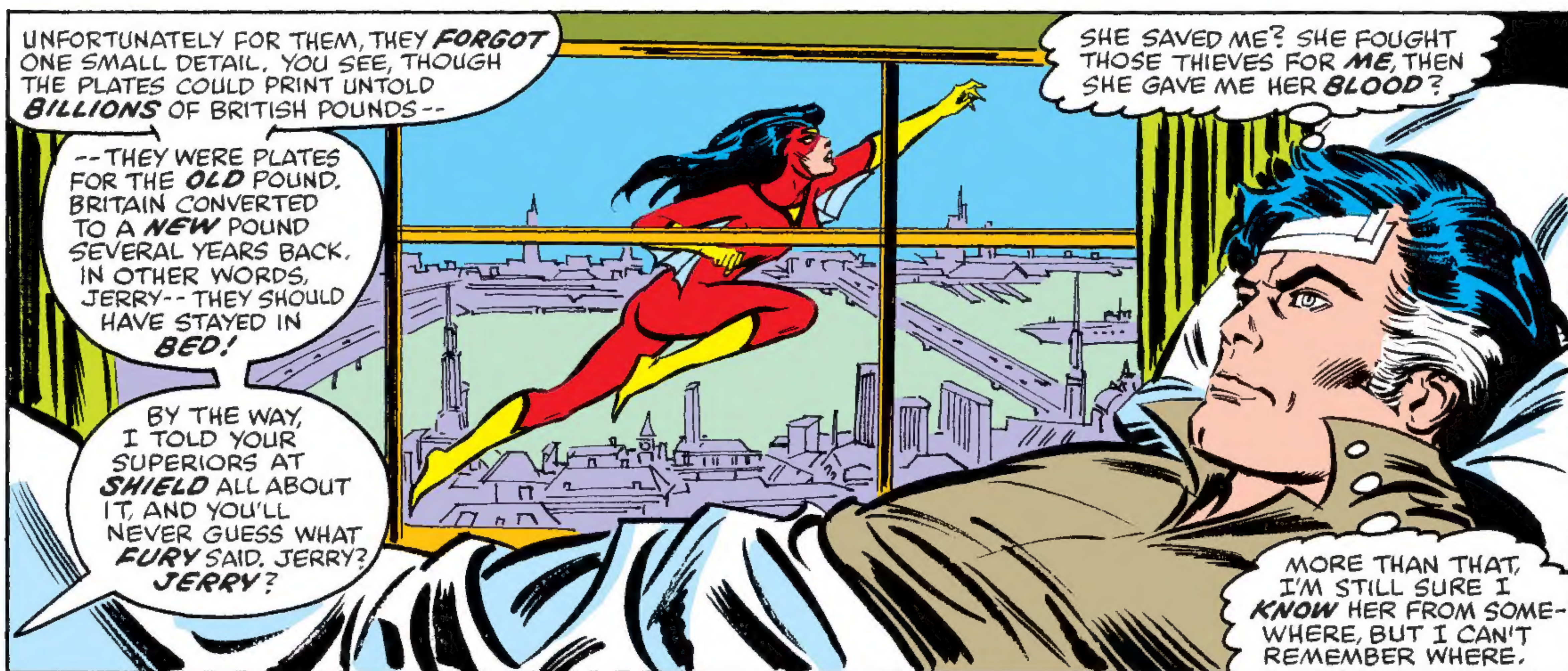
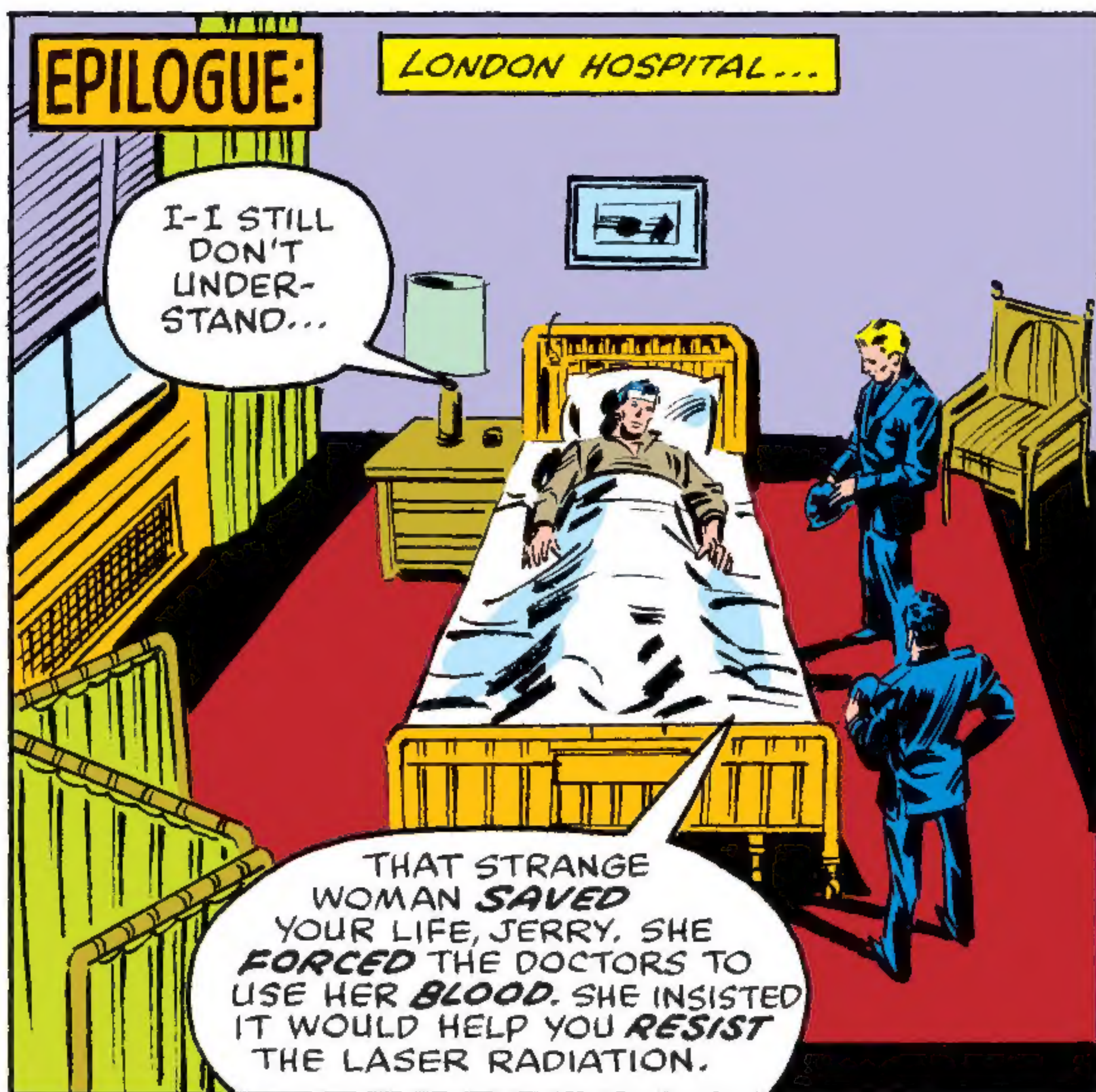












**NEXT:** WHAT IS IN STORE FOR JESSICA DREW? IS THERE A FUTURE FOR A WOMAN WITHOUT A PAST? SEE FOR YOURSELF, AS SPIDER-WOMAN MUST BATTLE: **EXCALIBUR** and **MORGAN LE FEY!** DON'T MISS IT!



